

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
Tuesday, 10 February 2026
6th Meeting, 2026 (Session 6)

Public Petitions – Note by the Clerk

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to support further consideration of two public petitions previously referred to the Committee.

Background

2. On 15 June 2022, the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee agreed to refer the following petition to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, in the context of that committee's wider consideration of health inequalities:

[PE1924: Complete an emergency in-depth review of Women's Health services in Caithness & Sutherland](#)

3. [At its meeting on 25 October 2022](#), the Committee considered the petition alongside three other petitions related to rural healthcare.
4. The Committee subsequently took evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care on the issues raised within this and the other three petitions [at its meeting on 17 January 2023](#).
5. [At its meeting on 21 February 2023](#), having closed the other three petitions, the Committee agreed to defer further consideration of petition PE1924 until after the Best Start North Review had concluded.
6. On 30 August 2023, the Committee received [a letter from the Minister for Public Health and Women's Health](#) advising that, following completion of an internal report in December 2020, the work of the Best Start North Review was subsequently superseded by the independent Moray Maternity Services Review, published on 3 December 2021.
7. Over the course of 2023 and 2024, the Committee undertook an indepth inquiry into healthcare in remote and rural areas. The Committee published its final report on the inquiry [on 7 October 2024](#).
8. On 18 June 2025, the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee agreed to refer the following petition to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee:

[PE2156: Improve access to ADHD diagnosis and treatment across Scotland](#)

9. In April 2025, the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee agreed to undertake an inquiry into Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and autism pathways and support.
10. Following its referral, the Committee subsequently agreed to consider petition PE2156 as part of the inquiry.
11. The Committee concluded its inquiry by publishing a report [on 2 February 2026](#).

Conclusion

12. The Committee is invited to consider and agree:

- What, if any, further action it wishes to take in relation to these two petitions;
- In particular, whether it wishes to close one or both of these petitions or to leave them open.

Clerks to the Committee
February 2026