

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee
Wednesday 25 February 2026
5th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)

PE2178: Introduce mandatory latex labelling for food products sold in Scotland

Introduction

Petitioner Hazel Margaret McIvor

Petition summary Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to introduce mandatory latex labelling on food products sold in Scotland if there is a chance of contamination.

Webpage <https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE2178>

1. [The Committee last considered this petition at its meeting on 12 November 2025.](#) At that meeting, the Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government.
2. The petition summary is included in **Annexe A** and the Official Report of the Committee's last consideration of this petition is at **Annexe B**.
3. The Committee has received a new written submission from the Scottish Government which is set out in **Annexe C**.
4. [Written submissions received prior to the Committee's last consideration can be found on the petition's webpage.](#)
5. [Further background information about this petition can be found in the SPICe briefing](#) for this petition.
6. [The Scottish Government gave its initial response to the petition on 30 August 2025.](#)
7. Every petition collects signatures while it remains under consideration. At the time of writing, 197 signatures have been received on this petition.

Action

8. The Committee is invited to consider what action it wishes to take.

Clerks to the Committee
February 2026

Annexe A: Summary of petition

PE2178: Introduce mandatory latex labelling for food products sold in Scotland

Petitioner

Hazel Margaret McIvor

Date Lodged

27 July 2025

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to introduce mandatory latex labelling on food products sold in Scotland if there is a chance of contamination.

Background information

Food packaging containing latex, mainly cold seal used in chocolate, ice-cream and biscuits should be labelled. The latex can transfer onto the chocolate, ice-cream and biscuits causing reactions that can be severe. I was told by Cadbury that latex is not included in the 14 allergens so they legally don't need to include it. 1-6% of the population has a latex allergy so we need this information to prevent our allergy getting worse.

The cold seal issue has been known since 2006, but nothing has been done about it. Some companies like Mars use a non latex version. People like me have been having "random" reactions for years and not realised it was the cold seal in Cadbury chocolate. I now know to avoid it but others don't as there is no warning on the packaging. The only way to avoid a latex allergy getting worse is to avoid latex which is impossible if we do not know it could be there.

Annexe B: Extract from Official Report of last consideration of PE2178 on 12 November 2025

The Convener: PE2178 was lodged by Hazel Margaret McIvor and calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to introduce mandatory latex labelling on food products sold in Scotland if there is a chance of contamination.

I gather that the petitioner is with us in the public gallery—forgive me, my eyesight is such that I can see only a blur at the back of the gallery, but I see her hand moving, and I welcome her to Holyrood.

Regulated food contact materials require to be authorised before use in Great Britain. The requirements include that any material or article that is intended to come into contact, directly or indirectly, with food must be sufficiently inert to preclude substances from being transferred to food in quantities large enough to endanger human health.

Food manufacturers are not legally required to set out whether latex is used in either packaging or food production. That is because latex is not a food substance or product and, therefore, is not included in the list of mandatory allergens that must be labelled under the assimilated food information to consumers regulation.

The SPICe briefing states the extent to which latex is used in food packaging is unclear. Food Standards Scotland advised SPICe that the typical cold seal adhesive is derived from natural rubber latex. The adhesive is used to seal the edges of packaging for a wide variety of applications, such as in chocolate bar packaging. Food Standards Scotland understands that the potential for the adhesives to migrate into the food product is very low.

The Scottish Government's response to the petition states that, in order to engage food safety provisions, the issue would need to have an effect on the food that would be detrimental to consumer interests. The response recognises that the petition raises a broader question about food packaging and states that officials plan to explore other consumer protection measures.

Do members have any suggestions for how we might proceed, in the light of that final point?

David Torrance: In light of the final point, I wonder whether the committee would consider writing to the Scottish Government to ask whether its exploration of consumer protection measures will consider how to alert consumers to allergens, such as latex, that can be present in food packaging. We could also ask whether it will work with the UK Government when considering options for packaging-based consumer protection measures.

The Convener: Those two questions volunteer themselves, given that there is an interest in officials investigating those matters. There is progress that we could make on the petition in the time that is left to us in this parliamentary session.

Fergus Ewing: I support Mr Torrance's recommendation and add that, as the petitioner points out, the number of people—they include my partner—who happen to have a latex allergy is not inconsiderable. It is between 1 and 6 per cent of the population. Like many allergies, it can have very serious consequences.

I am surprised, in a sense, that the issue has not been dealt with in the packaging world, which is normally fairly good at dealing with this kind of thing. Perhaps it is something that really needs to be dealt with, and I thought that we could stress as much in our letter.

The Convener: I think that that is a perfectly reasonable thing for us to do. We will illustrate why the issue is important, again within the context of the review that might take place.

Are colleagues content to keep the petition open and proceed with the investigation on that basis?

Members *indicated agreement.*

Annexe C: Written submission

Scottish Government written submission, 17 December 2025

PE2178/B: Introduce mandatory latex labelling for food products sold in Scotland

I write in response to your request on behalf of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee with regard to Petition PE2178 which states the following:

‘Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to introduce mandatory latex labelling on food products sold in Scotland if there is a chance of contamination.’

The Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee considered the above petition at its meeting on 12 November 2025. At that meeting, the Committee agreed to ask the Scottish Government whether:

- the exploration of consumer protection measures will consider how to alert consumers to allergens, such as latex, that can be present in food packaging.
- the Scottish Government will work with the UK Government when considering options for packaging-based consumer protection measures.

The Scottish Government’s response to the petition is set out below.

Food Standards Scotland (FSS) has responsibility for the policies around food safety, food contact materials and general food labelling in Scotland. Food Standards Scotland intends to explore what scope there may be to include statements or warnings about non-food allergens on packaging under general consumer protection law. Allergens, such as latex, found on labelling for food products is classed as non-food.

Non-food consumer protection matters are reserved to the UK government with the General Product Safety Regulations 2005 providing a framework for compliance and enforcement to ensure consumer products in the UK are safe before they are sold.

Officials within Food Standards Scotland will discuss options for packaging-based consumer protection measures with their counterparts in UK government and highlight the points raised in this petition.

I hope the Committee finds this information helpful.

Directorate for Population Health