

Public Petitions Committee
Thursday 8 October 2026
4th Meeting, 2026 (Session 7)

Admissibility decision

Introduction

1. [Standing Orders Rule 15.5](#) sets out the criteria for admissibility of petitions. These include that a petition is inadmissible if it “does not comply with Rule 15.4.2 or is otherwise not in proper form”, while Rule 15.4.3 requires the Committee to determine what counts as “proper form”. The Committee’s determination is [published on the Parliament’s website](#).
2. The effect is that, to be admissible, a petition has to comply both with the list of criteria in Rule 15.5, and with the determination.
3. It is the role of the Committee’s clerking team to advise petitioners on issues of admissibility, including by assisting them, where possible, in complying with the criteria. In most cases, the clerking team’s advice is accepted, but it is always open to a petitioner to dispute that advice. In such a case, the final decision rests with the Committee, under Rule 6.10. Under that Rule (and Rule 15.5.2), it is for the Committee to “decide in a case of dispute whether a petition is admissible”.

Proposed petition on nationalising dental clinics

4. A petition has been submitted that calls for the nationalisation of all dental clinics in Scotland.
5. The issue for the Committee to decide is whether the proposed petition is admissible by reference to the paragraph in the determination according to which the title of petitions “should be a short factual description that explains what is sought but not a slogan or campaign name”.
6. Further information about the proposed petition and the grounds on which admissibility is disputed are set out in a separate, private, paper.

Clerks to the Committee
October 2026