

# Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee

10th Meeting, 2022 (Session 6), Wednesday  
8 June 2022

## PE1875: Public inquiry into the Scottish Qualifications Authority

### Note by the Clerk

<b>Lodged on</b>	24 June 2021
<b>Petitioner</b>	Jordon Anderson
<b>Petition summary</b>	Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to order a public inquiry into the actions of the Scottish Qualifications Authority during academic years 2019-20 and 2020-21.
<b>Webpage</b>	<a href="https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE1875">https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE1875</a>

### Introduction

1. The Committee last considered this petition at its meeting on [1 December 2021](#). At that meeting, the Committee agreed to keep the petition open, pending the announcement of the Covid-19 public inquiry's terms of reference.
2. Following the Committee meeting, the Scottish Government announced the [terms of reference](#) and a chair for a public inquiry into the handling of Coronavirus (COVID-19).
3. The Committee may wish to note that the terms of reference include "To investigate the strategic elements of the handling of the pandemic relating to: [...] k) the delivery of education and certification."
4. 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**.

5. Written submissions received prior to the Committee's last consideration can be found on the [petition's webpage](#).
6. Further background information about this petition can be found in the [SPICe briefing](#) for this petition.
7. The Scottish Government's initial position on this petition can be found on the [petition's webpage](#).

## **Action**

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

### **Clerk to the Committee**

## Annexe A

# PE1875: Public inquiry into the Scottish Qualifications Authority

## Petitioner

Jordon Anderson

## Date lodged

24 June 2021

## Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to order a public inquiry into the actions of the Scottish Qualifications Authority during academic years 2019-20 and 2020-21.

## Previous action

I have contacted my newly elected MSP Jackie Dunbar and had no response.

## Background information

In the last two academic years we have seen major failings by both Scottish Government and the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) in terms of closing the attainment gap within the education system.

I believe that young people have been severely let down and now the SQA seem to be passing the blame onto teaching staff. This is totally unacceptable.

There needs to be a review of the SQA's actions during the last two academic years, which includes young people across Scotland. We cannot keep letting history repeat itself because, I believe, young people are slowly losing faith in the Scottish Government and the SQA.

## Annexe B

### Extract from Official Report of last consideration of PE1875 on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021

**The Convener:** The final continued petition is PE1875, which was lodged by Jordon Anderson and calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to order a public inquiry into the actions of the Scottish Qualifications Authority during the academic years 2019-20 and 2020-2021.

We last considered the petition at our meeting on 22 September 2021, when we decided to write to the Scottish Government to clarify whether the remit of the public inquiry into Covid-19 will include consideration of the SQA's actions. The Scottish Government has now responded. It states that there was public engagement earlier this year on a draft aims and principles paper for the inquiry. That will help to inform the terms of reference for the inquiry, which will be agreed between ministers and the inquiry's chair, once they have been appointed. The Scottish Government concludes by saying that

“decisions about the scope of this Scottish public inquiry are yet to be taken”

and that

“this includes matters raised in this petition.”

It therefore makes sense to leave the petition open until we have some clarification of whether the inquiry will take into account SQA review as part of its work. We will keep it open on that basis.

*Members indicated agreement.*