AGENDA
15th Meeting, Session 1 (2000)
Tuesday 13 June 2000

The Committee will meet at 1 pm in Committee Room 4, Committee Chambers, to consider the following agenda items:

1. **Item In Private:** The Committee will consider whether to take item 4 in private.

2. **Petitions:** The Committee will consider the following public petitions:

   Petition PE96 by Mr Allan Berry calling for the Scottish Parliament to hold an independent and public inquiry into the adverse environmental effects of sea cage fish farming, and the regulatory failure to both recognise and prevent significant damage to our natural heritage, the environment and other interests dependent on the integrity of our Scottish coastal waters.

   Petition PE100 by The Shettleston Traders Association calling for Scottish Parliament to take action to prevent the Faifley to Baillieston Quality Bus Corridor from proceeding on Shettleston Road and save the local community.

   Petition PE111 by Mr Frank Harvey calling for the Scottish Parliament to order a public inquiry into road accidents involving police responding to 999 calls.

   Petition PE123 by The Scottish Warm Homes Campaign calling for the Scottish Parliament to identify, discuss and seek to implement measures which would eradicate fuel poverty as a matter of urgency.

   Petition PE135 by Marion Scott calling for the Scottish Parliament to address a range of issues relating to the siting of mobile phone masts.

3. **Transport (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee will consider a briefing from the Parliamentary Information Centre on the Transport (Scotland) Bill, as introduced, and a possible approach to taking evidence on the Bill.
4. **Genetically Modified Organisms:** The Committee will consider a possible approach to taking evidence on the issue of genetically modified organisms.

Shelagh McKinlay  
Clerk to the Transport and Environment Committee  
Room 2.02, Committee Chambers  
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The following papers are relevant for this meeting:

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Petition by Mr Allan Berry on Sea Cage Fish Farming

PE96 by Mr Allan Berry calling for the Scottish Parliament to hold an independent and public inquiry into the adverse environmental effects of sea cage fish farming, and the regulatory failure to both recognise and prevent significant damage to our natural heritage, the environment and other interests dependent on the integrity of our Scottish coastal waters.

The petition is accompanied by a substantial volume of additional material submitted by the petitioner to support the petition. Members who would like to see a copy of this material should contact the clerk. Attached to this covering note is a list of indications of support for the petition which have been received by the Public Petitions Committee, plus a copy of a paper on the environmental impacts of fish farming submitted by Scottish Environment Link.

Progress of Petition

This petition was considered by the Public Petitions Committee on 29 February. It was referred to the Rural Affairs Committee, with the request that members of that Committee take into account the views of the Transport and the Environment Committee. The Transport and the Environment Committee has not been requested to take the lead in the consideration of this petition. Instead, the Public Petitions Committee has suggested that the Rural Affairs Committee should be the “lead” committee on the petition – the Rural Affairs Committee has requested the views of the Transport and the Environment Committee on this petition in advance of its own consideration of the petition.

Petitioner’s Request for Action

In considering how to respond to the Rural Affairs Committee, members are primarily asked to address the specific request made by the petitioner - that the Scottish Parliament should hold a independent public inquiry into the issue of sea cage fish farming.

Transport and the Environment Committee members could, if they wished, give an immediate view on this and suggest that the Rural Affairs Committee seek any additional information required (having regard to the remit of the Rural Affairs Committee). The benefits of such an approach include reduced risk of duplication of effort, increased clarity of process and, potentially a speedier response to the petitioner.

If members chose to support the petitioner’s call for the Parliament to hold an inquiry into sea cage fish farming, in conveying this view to the Rural Affairs Committee members could request that the Rural Affairs Committee consult the Transport and the Environment Committee on the terms of reference and arrangements for any
inquiry. Thus members of this Committee would be able to ensure that environmental issues remained central to the debate. The Committee could also, if it wished, appoint a reporter (or reporters) to the Rural Affairs Committee for the duration of any inquiry.

If members wanted to extend their consideration of the issue of sea cage fish farming beyond the specific request made in the petition, members might still wish to conclude their consideration of the petition by writing to the Rural Affairs Committee with the views of the Committee and informing the petitioner of the longer term plans of the Transport and the Environment Committee in relation to the broader subject matter of the petition. This would allow the Rural Affairs Committee to begin its consideration of the petition promptly.

Alternatively the Committee may wish to seek additional information on the petition before responding to the Rural Affairs Committee.

**Suggested Action by the Committee**

The Committee may wish to conclude consideration of the petition, by passing its views to the Rural Affairs Committee, as requested.

Specifically, the Committee might want to consider in its submission to the Rural Affairs Committee:

- Whether it supports in principle the petitioner’s call for the Scottish Parliament to hold an independent and public inquiry into the issue of sea cage fish farming
- Whether it wishes to request that the Rural Affairs Committee seeks any additional information on the petition.
- Whether it wishes to request that the Transport and the Environment Committee is consulted on the terms of reference and arrangements for any inquiry on sea cage fish farming.

Alastair Macfie
Assistant Clerk to the Transport and the Environment Committee
June 2000
Petition by The Shettleston Traders Association on the Faifley to Baillieston Quality Bus Corridor

PE 100 by The Shettleston Traders Association calling for Scottish Parliament to take action to prevent the Faifley to Baillieston Quality Bus Corridor from proceeding on Shettleston Road and save the local community.

Progress of Petition

This petition was considered by the Public Petitions Committee on 29 February 2000. It was copied to the Transport and the Environment Committee on 30 May 2000. The petition is accompanied by a letter from the Vice Chairman of the Shettleston Traders Association to the First Minister on the Faifley to Baillieston Quality Bus Corridor.

At its meeting, the Public Petitions Committee agreed to write to Glasgow City Council requesting that the petition would be taken into account as part of its consultation on the bus corridor proposals, and to request the Council’s views on the issues raised by the petitioner. A response has been received from Glasgow City Council which has been forwarded to the petitioner. This correspondence is attached to this covering note.

The Public Petitions Committee has now concluded consideration of the petition.

The Public Petitions Committee has therefore passed the petition to the Transport and the Environment Committee to note only.

Suggested Action by the Committee

The Committee may wish to:

- Note the petition as requested by the Public Petitions Committee

Shelagh McKinlay
Clerk to the Transport and the Environment Committee
June 2000
Petition by Mr Frank Harvey on road accidents involving police responding to 999 calls

PE 111 by Mr Frank Harvey calling for the Scottish Parliament to order a public inquiry into road accidents involving police responding to 999 calls.

Progress of Petition

This petition was considered by the Public Petitions Committee on 14 March 2000. The Convener of the Public Petitions Committee noted at this meeting:

“We understand that the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland is liaising with its counterparts in England and Wales on police driver standards, and that a driver review group has been set up. That group is considering a paper by ACPO called the Lind report, which deals with standards of police driver training and the feasibility of introducing standard training courses for police drivers. That is being taken forward by the traffic division of the Scottish Police College. “

The Public Petitions Committee is taking forward consideration of the petition by writing to the Scottish Executive to seek its response to the issues raised by the petition.

The Public Petitions Committee has passed the petition to the Transport and the Environment Committee and the Justice and Home Affairs Committee to note but with no request for further consideration unless members felt this necessary.

Given that the Public Petitions Committee is taking forward consideration of the petition, members may wish to pass any views they have on the petition, or suggestions for further action, to the Public Petitions Committee to inform its further consideration of the petition.

Suggested Action by the Committee

The Committee may wish to:

- Note the petition as requested by the Public Petitions Committee
- Pass any views of the Committee or requests for further action on the petition to the Public Petitions Committee

Shelagh McKInlay
Clerk to the Transport and the Environment Committee
June 2000
Petition by the Scottish Warm Homes Campaign on Fuel Poverty

PE 123 by The Scottish Warm Homes Campaign calling for the Scottish Parliament to identify, discuss and seek to implement measures which would eradicate fuel poverty as a matter of urgency.

This petition is accompanied by a briefing from the Scottish Warm Homes Campaign, and Friends of the Earth Scotland. A letter of support has also been received in connection with this petition, and it is attached to this covering note.

Progress of Petition

This petition was considered by the Public Petitions Committee on 14 March 2000. It was referred to the Social Inclusion, Housing and Voluntary Sector Committee and the Transport and the Environment Committee, with the recommendation that the Social Inclusion Committee should be the “lead” committee on the petition and that it should seek the views of the Transport and the Environment Committee.

The views of the Transport and the Environment Committee on the petition have now been requested by the Social Inclusion Committee. The Transport and the Environment Committee has not been requested to take the lead in the consideration of this petition.

At a meeting of the Social Inclusion Committee on 26 April, the Committee agreed to note the petition, to also seek the view of the Health and Community Care Committee on the petition; to consider the issue of fuel poverty in the committee’s forward work programme; and to take the issue of fuel poverty into account when considering the Executive’s forthcoming housing bill.

In considering its response to the Social Inclusion Committee, the Transport and the Environment Committee is only able to comment on the aspects of the petition that fall within its remit.

Members may wish to address the specific requests made by the petitioner - that the Parliament’s Committees act to ensure that the Scottish Executive:

- ensures that the domestic sector conforms to its sustainable development policy and its commitment to reduce CO₂ emissions
- introduces practical measures within the forthcoming Housing Bill which will lead to the eradication of fuel poverty, through improvements in energy efficiency, within two terms of the Scottish Parliament
Suggested Action by the Committee

In its submission to the Social Inclusion Committee, the Transport and the Environment Committee may wish to take a view on:

- whether it supports the petitioners request for committees of the Parliament to address issues around energy efficiency, sustainable development and CO₂ emissions in the domestic housing sector; and
- whether it wishes to request that the Social Inclusion Committee consult the Transport and the Environment Committee on any action it proposes taking on the petition, to ensure that environmental issues are adequately addressed.

Alastair Macfie
Assistant Clerk to the Transport and the Environment Committee
June 2000
TRANSPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE COVERING NOTE: PETITION PE 135

Petition by Marion Scott on Mobile Phone Masts

PE 135 by Marion Scott calling for the Scottish Parliament to address a range of issues relating to the siting of mobile phone masts.

This petition was submitted to the Parliament before the publication of the Transport and the Environment Committee’s report on telecommunications developments.

Progress of Petition

This petition was considered by the Public Petitions Committee on 27 March 2000.

The petition was passed to the Transport and the Environment Committee with the request that it respond to the petition by passing to the petitioner details of the Committee’s recent inquiry into telecommunications developments.

Suggested Action by the Committee

The Committee may wish to conclude consideration of the petition by writing to the petitioner:

• Providing a copy of the Committee’s report, as requested by the Public Petitions Committee, and outlining the views of the Committee, as set out in the report, on the six specific issues raised in the petition.
• Providing a copy of the Executive’s interim response to the report and a copy of the OR of the Committee Chamber debate on the report.
• Noting to the petitioner that a fuller response from the Executive will be issued in due course, and that the Committee will give further consideration to the issue at that time.

Shelagh McKinlay
Clerk to the Transport and the Environment Committee
June 2000