The Committee will consider the following new petitions—

**PE910** Petition by Dr Donald Smith, on behalf of the Literature Forum for Scotland, calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to urgently review the study of Scottish history, literature and languages at primary, secondary and tertiary levels to ensure that all citizens of Scotland have the opportunity to understand these key aspects of their own society and culture.

**PE911** Petition by Paul Nolan, on behalf of Craigmillar Community Council, calling on the Scottish Parliament to consider and debate the implications of the Scottish Executive's support for market led urban regeneration projects and the operation of privatised urban regeneration companies and in particular to consider the mechanisms in which local communities can influence and hold such companies to account.

**PE916** Petition by Scottish Environment LINK and Association of Scottish Community Councils calling for the Scottish Parliament to seek to secure real rights for all in the planning system by ensuring that the forthcoming Planning Bill will:
- establish real and effective rights for people to have their views taken into account on planning decisions and conditions, through the introduction of a limited third party right of appeal in the planning system, rather than just more opportunities to express opinions; and
- ensure that all strategic planning decisions taken by Government at the national level, including the National Planning Framework, will be open to challenge and public inquiry.

**PE917** Petition by Kevin Herd calling for the Scottish Parliament to consider and debate the final report of the Independent Review of NHS 24.
PE918 Petition by Bill Lobban, on behalf of Dalfaber Action Group, calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to review the protection afforded to amenity woodland within the current planning system with a view to ensuring that the views of local people who enjoy visiting such woodland are given sufficient weight within the planning process.

PE919 Petition by Mark Whittet calling on the Scottish Parliament to consider the creation of a mechanism for an Inter-Parliamentary Petitions process between the Scottish Parliament and the UK Parliament.
Public Petitions Committee – a template for public petitions

Should you wish to submit a public petition for consideration by the Public Petitions Committee please complete the template below. Please refer to the Guidance on submission of public petitions for advice on issues of admissibility before completing the template. You may also seek advice from the Clerk to the Committee whose contact details can be found at the end of this form.

<table>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Donald Smith on behalf of the Literature Forum for Scotland, member organisations and individual supporters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Scottish Storytelling Centre</td>
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Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition:
Before submitting a petition to the Parliament, petitioners are expected to have made an attempt to resolve their issues of concern by, for example, making representations to the Scottish Executive or seeking the assistance of locally elected representatives, such as councillors, MSPs and MPs. Please enter details of those approached below and append copies of relevant correspondence, which will be made available to the Public Petitions Committee prior to its consideration of your petition.

The Forum and its members have made representations to the Scottish Executive and to the relevant public bodies. These have revealed a lack of strategic coordination between SEED, SQA, HMI, the Scottish Arts Council, the Scottish Higher and Further Education Councils, and local education authorities. Often where positive recommendations exist there is no framework for delivering them and a lack of appropriate resources.

Petitioners appearing before the Committee
The Convener of the Committee may invite petitioners to appear before the Public Petitions Committee to speak in support of their petition. Such an invitation will only be made if the Convener considers this would be useful in facilitating the Committee’s consideration of the petition. It should be noted that due to the large volume of petitions it has to consider, the Committee is not able to invite all petitioners to appear before the Committee to speak in support of their petition.

Please indicate below if you do NOT wish to make a brief statement before the Committee when it comes to consider your petition.

I do wish to make a brief statement

Signature of principal petitioner:
When satisfied that your petition meets all the criteria outlined in the Guidance on submission of public petitions, the principal petitioner should sign and date the form in the box below. Other signatures gathered should be appended to this form.

Signature

Date .................................................................
29th November 2005

Please note that any additional information, copies of relevant correspondence and additional signatures should be appended to this form and submitted to:

The Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee,
The Scottish Parliament,
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP
Public Petitions Committee – a template for public petitions

Should you wish to submit a public petition for consideration by the Public Petitions Committee please complete the template below. Please refer to the Guidance on submission of public petitions for advice on issues of admissibility before completing the template. You may also seek advice from the Clerk to the Committee whose contact details can be found at the end of this form.

Details of principal petitioner:

Please enter the name of person and organisation raising the petition, including a contact address where correspondence should be sent to, email address and phone number if available

Paul Nolan, Chair, Craigmillar Community Council

Text of petition:

The petition should clearly state what action the petitioner wishes the Parliament to take in no more than 5 lines of text, e.g.

The petitioner requests that the Scottish Parliament considers and debates the implications of the proposed Agenda for Change legislation for Speech and Language Therapy Services and service users within the NHS

Petition by Paul Nolan, on behalf of Craigmillar Community Council, calling on the Scottish Parliament to consider and debate the implications of the Scottish Executive’s support for market led urban regeneration projects and the operation of privatised urban regeneration companies and in particular to consider the mechanisms in which local communities can influence and hold such companies to account.

Additional information:

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We have made contact and expressed our concerns on several occasions to our local Councillor, our local MSP, the regional list MSP and our local MP.

Petitioners appearing before the Committee
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I do NOT wish to make a brief statement before the Committee

Signature of principal petitioner:
When satisfied that your petition meets all the criteria outlined in the Guidance on submission of public petitions, the principal petitioner should sign and date the form in the box below. Other signatures gathered should be appended to this form.

Signature

Date

Please note that any additional information, copies of relevant correspondence and additional signatures should be appended to this form and submitted to:

The Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee,
The Scottish Parliament,
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP
PETITION TO SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT
Planning (Scotland) Bill
Raised by: Scottish Environment LINK and Association
of Scottish Community Councils on 1 August 2005

We, the undersigned, call upon the Scottish Parliament to seek to secure real rights for all in the planning system by ensuring that the forthcoming Planning Bill will:
• establish real and effective rights for people to have their views taken into account on planning decisions and conditions, through the introduction of a limited third party right of appeal in the planning system, rather than just more opportunities to express opinions; and
• ensure that all strategic planning decisions taken by Government at the national level, including the National Planning Framework, will be open to challenge and public inquiry.

Closing Date for signatures - 31 December 2005
Public Petitions Committee – a template for e-petitions

Should you wish to submit an e-petition allowing signatures to be gathered on-line on the Public Petitions Committee e-petitioner web pages please complete the template below. Before submitting your e-petition please consult the Guidance on submission of public petitions for advice on what is and is not admissible. You may also seek advice from the Clerk to the Committee whose contact details can be found at the end of this form.

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<td>Please enter the name of person and organisation raising the petition, including a contact address where correspondence should be sent to.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Kevin Herd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Please enter the closing date for gathering signatures on your petition, which we would usually recommend is a period of between 4-6 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closing date: 31 December 2005</td>
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</table>
Additional information:

Please enter any other information relating to the issues raised in your e-petition, including the reasons why the action requested is necessary. The text entered in this field should not exceed 2 pages. However, you may wish to provide further sources/links to background information.

We feel that this course of action is necessary considering the seriousness of the complaint.

George Herd died on 3rd January 2005 in the midst of all this so called procedures that the N.H.S. 24 Felt necessary to imply on that day.

Since then, we discovered that we were not the only family to be affected by the incompetence of the N.H.S. 24 team. We have had numerous people relating their experiences and dismay at the system.
Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting an e-petition:

Before submitting a petition to the Parliament, petitioners are expected to have made an attempt to resolve their issues of concern, by for example, making representations to the Scottish Executive or seeking the assistance of locally elected representatives, such as councillors, MSPs and MSPs. Details of those approached should be entered.

Mrs. M. Ewing. M.S. P.
Scottish Parliament

Comments to stimulate on-line discussion:

Please provide at least one comment to set the scene for an on-line discussion on the petition, not exceeding 10 lines of text.

I am trying to change N.H.S. 24. This year my Father George Herd of Findochty died on the 3rd January. When he became ill, two of his Friends called the N.H.S. 24 for a Doctor to be called to visit him as he was very ill. Because their was not a relative available they refused to send a Doctor. After some time his Friend dialled 999 but sadly it was too late for my Father.

I, myself work off-shore and was on the rig. I know what it felt that day when I got the call, that my Father had passed away but once I realised the carry on with all the phone calls for a Doctor and the legislation stating that they required a relative or to talk to the person themselves, whom at the time was so ill that this was impossible.

I felt let down by the system.

Please sign the petitions so this need not happen again.

Petitioners appearing before the Committee

The Convener of the Committee may invite petitioners to appear before the Public Petitions Committee to speak in support of their petition. Such an invitation will only be made if the Convener considers this would be useful in facilitating the Committee’s consideration of the petition. It should be noted that due to the large volume of petitions it has to consider, the Committee is not able to invite all petitioners to appear before the Committee to speak in support of their petition.

Please indicate below if you do NOT wish to make a brief statement before the Committee when it comes to consider your petition.

I do NOT wish to make a brief statement before the Committee
**Signature of principal petitioner:**

When satisfied that your petition meets all the criteria outlined in the Guidance on submission of public petitions, the principal petitioner should sign and date the form in the box below. Other signatures gathered should be appended to this form.

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For advice on the content and wording of your e-petition please contact:

The Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

**Note**
Completed e-petition forms should also be sent to petitions@scottish.parliament.uk
Public Petitions Committee – a template for e-petitions

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Details of principal petitioner:
Please enter the name of person and organisation raising the petition, including a contact address where correspondence should be sent to.

| Bill Lobban |

Text of petition:
The petition should clearly state what action the petitioner wishes the Parliament to take in no more than 5 lines of text, e.g.

The petitioner requests that the Scottish Parliament considers and debates the implications of the proposed Agenda for Change legislation for Speech and Language Therapy Services and service users within the NHS

Petition by Bill Lobban, on behalf of Dalfaber Action Group, calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to review the protection afforded to amenity woodland within the current planning system with a view to ensuring that the views of local people who enjoy visiting such woodland are given sufficient weight within the planning process.

Period for gathering signatures:
Please enter the closing date for gathering signatures on your petition, which we would usually recommend is a period of between 4-6 weeks

| Closing date: 12\textsuperscript{th} January 2006 |
Additional information:

Please enter any other information relating to the issues raised in your e-petition, including the reasons why the action requested is necessary. The text entered in this field should not exceed 2 pages. However, you may wish to provide further sources/links to background information.

Many communities throughout Scotland pride themselves on the environment they provide for their residents. However in an increasing number of cases designated amenity areas and in particular woodlands are being destroyed by unwanted and un-necessary development. The views of local residents are not given sufficient weight by the planning process which is heavily weighted in favour of the developers.

In our local area of Badenoch and Strathspey small communities are ruined by the pressure of development. In certain cases attempts have been made to double the size of some villages at the expense of local amenity woodlands.

Efforts should be made to make sure that the destruction of our amenity woodlands should be with the consent of local residents.
Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting an e-petition:
Before submitting a petition to the Parliament, petitioners are expected to have made an attempt to resolve their issues of concern, by for example, making representations to the Scottish Executive or seeking the assistance of locally elected representatives, such as councillors, MSPs and MSPs. Details of those approached should be entered.

All list and constituency MPS for Highland Region
Local Community Council
Highland Regional Park
Cairngorm National Park
SNH

Comments to stimulate on-line discussion:
Please provide at least one comment to set the scene for an on-line discussion on the petition, not exceeding 10 lines of text.

At present amenity woodland is being destroyed or being used as an easy target for developers to build housing, and as more of it is being lost, people are becoming concerned that there will be none left for local communities.

It is suggested that local communities should be consulted as to what they would like to happen to these precious amenities.

Petitioners appearing before the Committee
The Convener of the Committee may invite petitioners to appear before the Public Petitions Committee to speak in support of their petition. Such an invitation will only be made if the Convener considers this would be useful in facilitating the Committee’s consideration of the petition. It should be noted that due to the large volume of petitions it has to consider, the Committee is not able to invite all petitioners to appear before the Committee to speak in support of their petition.

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The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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### Details of principal petitioner:

_Please enter the name of person and organisation raising the petition, including a contact address where correspondence should be sent to._

Mark R. Whittet (LLB, BA)

### Text of petition:

_The petition should clearly state what action the petitioner wishes the Parliament to take in no more than 5 lines of text, e.g._

_The petitioner requests that the Scottish Parliament consiers and debates the implications of the proposed Agenda for Change legislation for Speech and Language Therapy Services and service users within the NHS_

Petition by Mark Whittet calling on the Scottish Parliament to fully and publicly consider the creation of a mechanism for an Inter-Parliamentary Petitions (aka a 'Whittet motion') process between the Scottish Parliament and the UK Parliament to more widely and faithfully represent and articulate the views of the majority of the people of Scotland on all issues which directly impinge on them in their just pursuit of life, liberty and prosperity - thereby improving inter-parliamentary relations, enhancing the democratic process and raising parliamentary accountability.

### Period for gathering signatures:

_Please enter the closing date for gathering signatures on your petition, which we would usually recommend is a period of between 4-6 weeks._

Closing date: 23 December 2005
Re Parliamentary Petition in favour of VAT on Aviation fuel (PE 891)

AND WITH

(new) Petition for the Establishment of an INTER-Parliamentary Petition from Holyrood to Westminster - aka a Whittet Motion

With regard to my previously lodged petition (PE 891) and your invitation to present this petition in parliament on 9 November 2005, please be advised that I wish to temporarily suspend presentation/consideration of PE891 on 9 November 2005 so that it can be heard in tandem with another – and related – petition, detailed below.

The new, but linked Petition (below) which is respectfully submitted to parliament calls for Holyrood to create a mechanism for a INTER-Parliamentary Petition(s) from the Scots Parliament to the Westminster Parliament (informally named a ‘Whittet motion’ after the Petitioner.

In drafting PE891, the proposer has given much consideration to the likely outcomes and the question of ‘vires’ with regard to the Scots Parliament and the Scotland Act. In so doing, it has become self-evident that – even if the Public Petitions Committee fully endorses the proposals contained within PE891 - the practical effect is nevertheless likely to be limited for the above reasons.

Therefore, the proposer(s) have given further consideration as to how the Scots Parliament per se could meaningfully progress any and all such petitions it endorses from the people of Scotland: hence the proposer’s new Petition (supra) calling for the Scottish Parliament to create a mechanism for the House - possibly using delegated powers exercised through the Public Petitions Committee in Holyrood – to (if it so chooses after appropriate consideration) debate and consequently lodge an INTER-Parliamentary Petition from Holyrood to the Westminster parliament, as outlined below; Holyrood (and its Petitions and /or Procedures Committee) are urged to come up with a new mechanism for INTER PARLIAMENTARY PETITION(s) from HOLYROOD AS A WHOLE - so that all parties (and none) can debate issues over which Holyrood has no legislative jurisdiction, and then come to a vote either in support or against a particular Holyrood-wide petition. This could also put a meaningful and practical outcome to many of the otherwise non-consequential debates in Holyrood.

The Whittet motion (ie an all-parliamentary petition from Holyrood) should - ideally, from the democratic perspective - be tabled and lodged at Westminster as a Petition in its own right to that parliament – notwithstanding that the procedure which presently exists for tabling public petitions at Westminster has largely fallen into desuetude.

As with any petition to any parliament in the world, the members of any such parliament can choose to ignore a petition (and too frequently do so). BUT if a petition to the Westminster parliament was ITSELF A PETITION LODGED BY THE HOLYROOD, it would have considerably moral and political clout - in short, this (INTER) -PARLIAMENTARY PETITION (IPP) is a device to accresce more influence to your collective parliamentary elbow at Holyrood. It is reasonably foreseeable that an IPP would also:

- Have a beneficial effect on the overall democratic process by encouraging engagement and participation by voters
- Develop and deepen dialogue between the two parliaments in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect,
- Foster greater communication and contact between MPs in both Houses on matters of mutual interest, and
- Promote consensus and ostensibly more representative decision-making by both parliaments.
Holyrood has already provided a democratic example for Westminster in terms of its general accessibility and transparency through the use of new media and communications technology. The Scots Parliament can continue to demonstrate ‘best democratic practice’ - and achieve the benefits outlined above – by creating an Inter Parliamentary Petition from Holyrood to Westminster.

A Public Petition 'sifted' by the Holyrood Petitions committee as an All-Parliamentary and/or Inter Parliamentary Petition could stimulate greater input, raise the accountability and positive profile of Holyrood and deepen and develop public engagement in the democratic process; consider for instance, the effect of a Whittet Motion' (ie an Inter-Parliamentary Petition from Holyrood to Westminster) on nuclear power, or GM-foods, or VAT on aviation fuel, or gun law, or abortion, on UK ID cards, the re-organisaton of the Scottish army regiments, or immigration/asylum and children in asylum/detention, etc.

- SO that..in terms of the Public Petition for VAT on aviation fuel, this could become for example an Inter Parliamentary Petition from Holyrood to Westminster.... a markedly more effective proposition. There is a subtle but significant distinction between telling the electorate:-

"You / Holyrood don't have the power to legislate on a particular issue..."

- compared to: -

"We.. (Westminster) wilfully choose to ignore the wishes of the Scots People and Parliament by disregarding this Inter-Parliamentary Petition.. (IPP) from Holyrood on <insert topic>".

The mechanism for an IPP could be agreed in detail following further consideration by the Business Body (PCB) at Holyrood but the broad criteria could be considered along the following lines: -

"While <insert topic of Inter-Parliamentary Petition – aka ‘Whittet Motion’ from Holyrood to Westminster> is strictly an ultra-vires issue under the terms of the Scotland Act, Holyrood recognises that this is an important issue which nevertheless directly impacts and impinges on the people of Scotland. Therefore, we, as Members of the Scots Parliament have agree to consider this on an Inter Parliamentary Petition basis (aka a ‘Whittet motion’) which - if voted for by a majority of Holyrood MPs - would be submitted to the Westminster government/Leader of the House/ Speaker of the House of Westminster as an Inter-Parliamentary Petition from the Scots Parliament and People calling for action as may be appropriate".
Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting an e-petition:

Before submitting a petition to the Parliament, petitioners are expected to have made an attempt to resolve their issues of concern, by for example, making representations to the Scottish Executive or seeking the assistance of locally elected representatives, such as councillors, MSPs and MSPs. Details of those approached should be entered.

There is no appropriate prior action which the Petitioner could have taken. Before submitting it to parliament.

This is a matter directly affecting the business of the whole house, although the Petitioner will be seeking support among all parties and none for the creation of an Inter parliamentary petition mechanism prior to consideration by the Holyrood petitions committee.

Comments to stimulate on-line discussion:

Please provide at least one comment to set the scene for an on-line discussion on the petition, not exceeding 10 lines of text.

‘By means of this Inter-Parliamentary Petition, Holyrood calls on the Westminster parliament and UK government to support its petition for < insert subject*> by taking action as appropriate because this Petition (or 'Whittet Motion') reflects the majority of opinion among the elected MPs in the Scottish Parliament and is therefore representative of the majority wishes of the Scots people – with the first petition from Holyrood to Westminster calling for the reintroduction of an invigorated and effective Public Petitions Procedure at Westminster.

< * Motion of Inter Parliamentary Petition to be laid before Holyrood and debated as a Committee of the Whole House, with a simple majority vote being sufficient authority for said Petition/ Whittet Motion to be laid before Westminster parliament and Government/ Leader of the House of Commons at Westminster/ Speaker of the House of Comons at Westminster and Lord Falconer, Leader of the House of Lords at Westminster>

Comments by 23 December 2005

Petitioners appearing before the Committee

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Please indicate below if you wish to make a brief statement before the Committee when it comes to consider your petition.

I DO wish to make a brief statement before the Committee  x

Signature of principal petitioner:
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Signature ........................................................................................................................................

Date 14 November 2005

For advice on the content and wording of your e-petition please contact:

The Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Note
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