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.

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.

Gary Strachan

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 Gary Strachan calling on the Scottish Parliament urge the Scottish Executive to (a) investigate why there is no presumption of equal access/residence for children with both parents after separation in Scottish Law (b) investigate bias against fathers as equal parents in the Scottish Court System (c) investigate why contact orders are not enforced (d) investigate why parental responsibilities and rights are ignored by the medical, welfare & governmental institutions to the detriment of children.

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: 7 March 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.*

The Policy Memorandum to the Family Law (Scotland) Bill 2005 states that the objective is to promote fathers’ participation with their families [and that] a child has two parents and is entitled to the loving involvement of both of them in his or her upbringing...even where a father is not living with the mother. Moira Wilson of the Scottish Executive Justice Department (Justice 1 Committee Official Report 16 March 2005) states that ‘promoting the involvement of fathers in their children’s lives is a key plank of the bill’. The Bill has failed in these objectives.

Written evidence submitted to the Justice One Committee regarding the Family Law Bill

### 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 MEPs. Details of those approached should be entered.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MSPs contacted by letter</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jackie Beillie 10/11/04 Ref: JB1</td>
<td>Scott Barrie 02/12/04 Ref: SB1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rob Gibson 10/11/04 Ref: RG1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annabel Goldie 7/02/05 Ref AG1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christine Grahame 29/11/04 Ref: CG1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cathy Jamieson 10/11/04 Ref: CJ1, 23/12/04 Ref: CJ2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maureen Macmillan 10/11/04 Ref: MM1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jim Mather 10/11/04 Ref: JM1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jamie McGrigor 10/11/04 Ref: JM1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nanette Milne 02/12/04 Ref: NM1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brian Montelth 10/11/04 Ref: BM1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Irene Oldfather 10/11/04 Ref: IO1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Peter Peacock 10/11/04 Ref: PP1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Keith Raffan 10/11/04 Ref: KR1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mary Scanlon 10/11/04 Ref: MS1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Eleanor Scott 10/11/04 Ref: ES1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tommy Sheridan 02/12/04 Ref: TS1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Margaret Smith 02/12/04 Ref: MS1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jamie Stone 10/11/04 Ref: JS1, 11/01/05 Ref: JS2, 07/02/05 Ref: JS3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letters from MSPs</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annabel Goldie 18/01/05 Ref AG1 responding on behalf of Nanette Milne</td>
<td>Patricia Scott 28/01/05 replying on behalf of Annabel Goldie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siobhan Ennis 17/11/04 Ref 2004 /0030593 replying on behalf of Jack McConnell</td>
<td>Siobhan Ennis 30/11/04 Ref 2004 /0030593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nanette Milne 17/12/04</td>
<td>Margaret Mitchell 20/01/05</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Irene Oldfather 18/11/04 Ref KC/OI</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Margaret Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>David McGowan 22/11/04 ref 0034553 replying to Jamie Stone on behalf of Cathy Jamieson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jamie Stone 17/01/05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letters to MEPs</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eispeth Attwool 22/11/04</td>
<td>Ian Hudghton 22/11/04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Martin</td>
<td>22/11/04</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Purvis CBE</td>
<td>22/11/04, 07/02/05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alyn Smith</td>
<td>22/11/04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Struan Stevenson</td>
<td>22/11/04, 4/02/05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catherine Stihler</td>
<td>22/11/04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elspeth Attwood</td>
<td>29/11/04 Ref EA/MEP/AN/PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ian Hudghton</td>
<td>23/12/04</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Martin</td>
<td>10/12/04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judith Crawford</td>
<td>22/12/04, 22/07/05 on behalf of John Purvis CBE</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Purvis CBE</td>
<td>11/01/05, 15/03/05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alyn Smith</td>
<td>10/12/04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Struan Stevenson (a) 30/12/04 copy of letter to F Frattini, European Commissioner for Justice Freedom And Security</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>John Purvis CBE</td>
<td>11/01/05, 15/03/05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yvonne Thorpe</td>
<td>3/12/04, 26/01/05 ref 050016 on behalf of Catherine Stihler</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Emails**

- Callum Thompson, Justice One Committee 29/04/05
- Catherine Stihler MEP 21/12/04, 22/12/04
- Civil Law Policy@Scotland.Gov.Uk 19/12/01
- Consult Childensneeds@Dca.Gsi.Gov.Uk 26/07/04
- Matthew Harold, Family Justice Division, Department For Constitutional Affairs 28/07/2004
- Justice.Committee@Scottish.Parliament.Uk 7/04/05, 18/04/05
- Lewis McNaughton, Assistant Clerk, Justice 1 Committee, 10/05/05, 13/05/05 26/05/05, 07/07/05
- Liam Rankin, Scottish Executive Justice Department, Civil Law Division 09/02/05, 11/02/05
- Scottishministers@Scotland.Gsi.Gov.Uk 21/10/05
- Sp.Info@Scottish.Parliament.Uk 06/05/05
- Family Law@Scotland.Gov.Uk 27/02/03
- Adele Heron@Scotland.Gov.Uk 09/09/05, 20/9/05
- Debbie Headrick, Legal Studies Research Branch, 20/09/05
- Carol M Duncan, Head Of Family Law Branch, Civil Law Division 26/09/05 29/09/05
- Dougie Wands, Senior Assistant Clerk, Justice 1 Committee, 19/09/05
- Kathleen Marshall, Commissioner For Children And Young People, 13/12/05, 15/12/05, 16/12/05, 11/01/06
- Jamie McGrigor MSP 14/01/05, 8/12/05
- Mary Scanlon MSP 8/12/05, 13/12/05, 14/12/05
- Peter Peacock MSP 8/12/05, 19/12/05
- Eleanor Scott MSP 8/12/05
- Jim Mather MSP 8/12/05
- Rob Gibson MSP 8/12/05
- Jamie Stone MSP 17/02/05, 14/09/05, 19/09/05, 23/09/05, 27/09/05, 14/11/05, 8/12/05
- John Thurso MP 9/11/05

**Surgery meetings with Jamie Stone MSP, Rob Gibson MSP, and John Thurso MP**


- Oral evidence given to the Justice One Committee regarding the Family Law Bill 1/06/05 [http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/committees/justice1/or-05/105-1802.htm](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/committees/justice1/or-05/105-1802.htm)

**Meeting with Justice One Committee as part of the group Father and Families Matter (Scotland) 21/06/05**

**Copies of all correspondence available on request.**
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.

Children do not want to be forced to choose between parents and they are very keen to treat their parents equally. Both parents are equally important to their child and the fact that the parents may no longer be partners does not change this. Parents do not stop being parents just because they are no longer partners. As Children in Scotland say 'children should not be disadvantaged as a result of the dissolution of the relationship.' However, regardless of the parental problems, children depend on having a continuing relationship with both parents. Funder (1995) states that contact with both parents is in the best interests of the children. Unfortunately, access disputes, the mother's undermining of the father's ability to be a good parent or the mother discouraging the relationship between the father and his children often make the transition to a restructured father-child relationship very difficult. Wallerstein and Kelly (1980) comment that courts and hostile partners have done their best to impose severe restrictions and conditions on contact rights, and this has been detrimental to a father-child relationship.

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.

Signature...Gary Strachan.................................................................

Date ..........23/01/05................................................................

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
Tel: 0131 348 5186  Fax: 0131 348 5088
e-mail: petitions@scottish.parliament.uk
Note
Completed e-petition forms should also be sent to petitions@scottish.parliament.uk
Public Petitions Committee – a template for public 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, email address and phone number if available

Doreen Hagger

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 Doreen Hagger calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to instruct Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to investigate Central Scotland Police’s dealings with Thomas Hamilton from 1975 to 1996 and to examine the 1,655 witness statements taken during the investigation into the shootings at Dunblane Primary School on 13 March 1996.

Additional information:
Any additional information in relation to your petition, including reasons why the action requested is necessary, should not be included here. However, it may be appended to the petition and will be made available to the Public Petitions Committee prior to its consideration of your petition. Please note that you should limit the amount of any additional information which you may wish to provide in support of your petition to no more than 4 sides of A4.
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Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition:
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Over the last 3 years, we have had extensive correspondence with the First Minister, the Lord Advocate, Lord Cullen, Central Scotland Police, the Scottish Information Commissioner and many others. The extent of this correspondence is so voluminous that it would be cumbersome to supply you with a full set of copies, but we append a small sample for your information. If you require a full dossier of all our correspondence, we would happily supply this.

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I DO request to make a brief statement before the Committee ✓
I DO NOT request 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 1st 3rd 2005

Please note that any additional information, copies of relevant correspondence and additional signatures should be appended to this
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Sandra Utley

Text of petition:
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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 Sandra Utley calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive establish a new public inquiry into the shootings at Dunblane Primary School on 13 March 1996.

Additional information:
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Over the last 3 years, I have had extensive correspondence with the First Minister, the Lord Advocate, Lord Cullen, Central Scotland Police, my MP Dr Ashok Kumar, the Scottish Information Commissioner and many others. The extent of this correspondence is so voluminous that it would be cumbersome to supply you with a full set of copies, but I append a small sample for your information. If you require a full dossier of all my correspondence, I would happily supply this.

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Signature of principal petitioner:

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Signature

Date 7 Feb 2006

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
Tel: 0131 348 5186 Fax: 0131 348 5088
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William Burns

Text of petition:

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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 William Burns calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to establish a new public inquiry into the Shootings at Dunblane Primary School on 13 March 1996 with a view to reinvestigating whether Thomas Hamilton led a "charmed life"; who his associates were and to determine whether the original public inquiry failed to consider crucial available evidence.

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