The Committee will consider the following new petitions—

PE968 Petition by Nicola Hardie, on behalf of Lenzie Moss Primary School, calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to increase the number of police officers on the beat.

PE967 Petition by Louise MacLeod calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to conduct an inquiry into excessive car parking charges at NHS hospitals, such as the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

PE965 Petition by Dean Widd, on behalf of the Parent Project UK Muscular Dystrophy (Scotland), calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to ensure sufficient funding and resources are in place to combat Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and to ensure that the care requirements of those with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy are met.

PE969 Petition by Alan Kennedy calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to promote and encourage the development and installation of micropower renewable energy technology in business and domestic premises and to set targets for doing so.

PE970 Petition by Chris Bartter, on behalf of 7:84 Theatre Company, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to act urgently to prevent the closure of 7:84 Theatre Company.

PE971 Petition by David Minnery, on behalf of East Renfrewshire Tenants & Residents Federation, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to review the implementation of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 to ensure that local authority landlords are in compliance with the Act, particularly in relation to tenant participation and consultation in the management of housing and related services.
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:
Pleased 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

Nicola Hardie

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 Nicola Hardie, on behalf of Lenzie Moss Primary School, calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to increase the number of police officers on the beat.

We are very concerned about the unacceptable increase in anti-social behaviour carried out by young people in the area.

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.
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.

Dr Jean Turner MSP, Jo Swinson MP, Police, litter wardens, Mr McLelland Headmaster of Lenzie Academy, and councillor Gordon McDonald were contacted by our teacher Mrs M. Elliot on our behalf.

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 whether you request to make a brief statement before the Committee when it comes to consider your petition.

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 12/10/2006

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
e-mail: petitions@scottish.parliament.uk
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.

Louise MacLeod

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 Louise MacLeod calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to conduct an inquiry into excessive car parking charges at NHS hospitals, such as the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

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 June 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 Royal Infirmary car park costs £10 per day for most patients, staff and students. A private company currently operates car par facilities.

The Scotsman 16 Jan 2006 published a feature on the current issue titled ‘Anger over lottery of hospital charges’ with the key points being

- Relatives visiting sick and dying face up to £55 a week in charges
- Unions and opposition politicians call parking and other fees immoral.

Key quote

"At the time you are faced with your wife's health and her future - she had three major operations - you just do not consider that you're paying on a daily basis" - Henry Robertson, who paid more than £600 to visit his dying wife

As more nursing care is happening in the community patients very often go to hospital for regular check ups but are very often still quite seriously ill. For example, a patient who is the bread winner of a family and may be quite ill and clearly unable to travel by public transport could face excessive car parking charges at a time when his/her income is low. Public transport is not always suitable for patients. In addition to the effects of car parking charges on patients nursing staff and students face the same charges. Just because a student is studying nursing does not mean that they do not have responsibilities such as children. Students are not entitled to car parking passes adding to the burden of training to become a nurse. Perhaps also adding to drop out rates in the nursing profession which is already well understaffed. Nurses and other staff employed need to use their salaries to pay the high costs of parking with very few permits available at a high cost.

Car park charges such as these are wrong because no patient wants to be in hospital in the first place but are there usually as the result of illness and injury and have enough worries to contend with. Staff and students should not need to pay parking costs to go to their place of work. There are not enough incentives to get more people into the health profession and it surely is not too much to ask to have some parking facilities that are not way extortionate. Nurses and students should not be expected in many circumstances to use public transport due to family commitments and travel distances. The Royal Infirmary Edinburgh out at Little France has vast areas where parking could be utilised.
**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 has been some debate with unions and media reports but very little can be done due to the fact that the car park is operated by a private company.

---

**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.

Patients attend hospital as the result of illness and injury. Why should the sick and relatives of the sick need to hand over money that they may not be able to afford to attend a hospital where they would rather not be in the first place just to profit a business. Why should staff and students need to pay such high prices to park their car when quite often they have family commitments and may not be on a high salary? At a time when more incentives are needed to encourage more people to go into the nursing profession and retain those already employed as nurses does the barrier of high parking charges not impinge?

---

**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 whether you request to make a brief statement before the Committee when it comes to consider your petition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I DO request to make a brief statement before the Committee</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I DO NOT request to make a brief statement before the Committee</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 .....30/03/2006.................................................................

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 e-petitions

Should you wish to submit an e-petition allowing signatures to be gathered online 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.

Dean Widd Parent Project UK Muscular Dystrophy (Scotland)

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 Dean Widd, on behalf of the Parent Project UK Muscular Dystrophy (Scotland), calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to ensure sufficient funding and resources are in place to combat Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and to ensure that the care requirements of those with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy are met.

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: 28 Feb 2006

a template for e-petitions, July 2004
Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy is a severe and progressive genetic muscle wasting disease for which there is no cure. Boys with DMD will die in their late teens without treatment.

18 - 28
Boys with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy are dying in Scotland 10 years earlier than their counterparts in Newcastle over the border.

Current research and medical practice that can extend the lives of young men with DMD and improve their quality of life is not disseminated throughout Scotland due to a lack of staffing, funding and resources.

Clinical trials of new potential drugs and gene therapies are being trialed in England but the Scottish executive has not funded research in DMD and has no plan to offer boys with DMD treatments that might come on stream in the near future.

It is a scandal that the rest of the UK have abolished the means test for the Disabled Facilities Grant and families can get mandatory grants of up to £30000 and yet in Scotland it remains a post code lottery.

Young men with DMD are wheelchair bound from early teens but most families are unable to afford the high quality equipment that can cost up to £15000.

We call upon the Scottish parliament to provide an extra £2m of funding for new research and to improve medical treatments and services for DMD young people in Scotland.

We demand an end to any means testing for the DFG and a minimum £30000 mandatory grant.

We demand that all young men with DMD are granted up to £15000 for proper wheelchair provision.

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.

Stirling Council
MSP Sylvia Jackson
MP Anne McGuire
MSP Jack McConnell
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.

Over the border in Newcastle upon Tyne young men with DMD are living longer. This is due to better medical care and the dissemination of research and best medical practice. Scotland has a wonderful history of scientific research but no research is funded into finding a cure for DMD. Why is the Disabled facilities grant means testscrapedin the rest of the UK and grants are now paid to families of young disabled children to have their house adapted for up to £30,000 in Wales? It is time that the Scottish Parliament took up its responsibilities to help families who have sons with this cruel severe genetic muscle wasting disease.

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 ............................................................................................................................................................................

Date .....................................................................................................................................................................................

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

a template for e-petitions, July 2004
Public Petitions Committee – a template for e-petitions

Should you wish to submit an e-petition allowing signatures to be gathered online 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.*

| Mr. A.G. Kennedy | Change of Address w.e.f. 3 April 06 'CHANRIC' |

**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 Alan Kennedy calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to promote and encourage the development and installation of micro-power renewable energy technology in business and domestic premises and to set targets for doing so.

**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: 31 May 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.

Everyone seems to be talking about renewable energy. Yet few of our citizens have much idea what it is all about. Most are aware of windfarms and large hydroelectric schemes. However small systems involving renewable energy technology and providing heat or electricity for direct application in private homes and business premises, commonly known now as Micropower, is a subject, which barely registers with the average Scot. We all need to know such systems are available now to change the way we view our power supply demands.

Overall the general public are not informed about the various options available now to make an sensible choice about Micropower in their homes and places of work. Even if they persevere to find out they may then be concerned and discouraged by initial installation costs, pay-back timescales and planning consent difficulties.

Far less are they knowledgeable about the various grant systems, which may sometimes be available. Nor indeed are they encouraged to find out more under the current scheme of things. Yet the technical advances made to date plus can offer considerable benefits to domestic and other consumers and it is time for the public to be made aware of them.

This Petition seeks to bring about a change in approach by the Executive to the concept of publicising, encouraging and where necessary incentivising at local government level the different types of 'on site' Micropower. In addition manufacture of the hardware should be nurtured to be made freely available on a scale, at a rate and at a price which reaches down to all levels of society across Scotland. Especially to those for whom heat and power costs are already a serious barrier to retaining quality of life in the home. To achieve this state of awareness serious consideration must be given to removing the current obstacles such as lack of funding, planning consents and general public knowledge of the systems now available.

It is not the purpose of this Petition to go into detail on the various Micropower options now available. However these include domestic wind turbine generators, solar photovoltaic panels, solar water heating, micro-hydroelectric systems, ground source heat pumps, air source heat pumps and Biofuels.

In submitting this Petition I am aware that it is in line with the Consultation Paper on Micropower now being circulated for comment to interested parties by Shiona Baird MSP. This Paper if developed into a parliamentary Bill may achieve the end I am seeking but will need all the publicity and support it can get. I have no political attachments or indeed commercial interests in Micropower other than a desire to see it given the attention it deserves. Those who wish to support this petition may find it useful to read the Paper and encourage their local MSP to consider supporting it. It is available at:-


A further Consultation paper on Microgeneration by Sarah Boyack can be found at:-


In respect of this petition some key issues need to be addressed by our Parliament if Micropower is to really get off the ground across Scotland:

1 Parliament as a whole has to demonstrably endorse the concept of Micropower as a technology, which can potentially involve everyone in environmentally friendly and cost effective renewable energy. The Green Consultative Paper is a good starting point for discussion within the parliament on this.

2 Dispensation and guidance must be given to local authorities to allow approved Micropower systems to be more readily installed in domestic and business premises without restrictive planning delays/consents.

3 To encourage local authorities to promote Micropower they must be allowed to offer...
meaningful local council tax breaks or similar financial incentives to homeowners, businesses and particularly home construction companies of all sizes where the technology is introduced. The Scottish Parliament already has delegated powers to allow this to happen.

4 The Executive must take action to promote public awareness of the various technology options. Promotion to the public has to be on the scale of recent public advertising for instance on Energy Saving and Broadband—but much more effectively and imaginatively delivered.

5 The Executive must do more to encourage the many small and large companies engaged in Micropower technology to invest in and expand their businesses in Scotland.

6 Any Bill on Microgeneration should include targets in line with the following as a minimum goal. An increase in installed systems over the present recorded figures of 700 by 50% by end '07. Annual increases thereafter targeted at a minimum of 100% over 5 years and a further review of targets in 2012 or earlier.

Micropower systems, however widespread, will never be an alternative to large power stations of whatever type. But they can be a most useful addition to Scotland’s renewable power generation targets. Until we reach a situation whereby Micropower, in all its forms, is considered for installation in our offices and homes as readily as we accept and demand television services, water supplies or Broadband communications we cannot be said to have truly explored and considered the whole concept of renewable energy.

Ask the average person in the street if he or she agrees with using more renewable forms of energy. The answer will inevitably be ‘yes’ but the usually unspoken follow on is ‘how can I be involved’? This is the question we have to address and I call upon the public to endorse this petition and require that their Executive act upon it without delay.

Petition Ends. AGK 1/3/06

---

**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.

I am aware that a Micropower Consultation Paper has now been circulated by the Green Party for comment by interested parties prior to possible submission as a Bill before the Scottish Parliament. I have no connection to any political party but I believe that the public have a wish as well as a right to be informed and involved in this subject matter, which is of wide public interest. I also believe that a petition will bring this matter to the attention of a wider audience than that currently covered in the circulation of the Consultation Paper.

---

**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.

Micropower can be the means whereby we really involve the wider public in renewable energy.

Micropower can also be a step to help launch energy saving awareness.

Domestic power users and businesses installing approved Micropower Systems should be granted some form of financial reward related to the size and effectiveness of the system.

Scotland has all the natural environmental advantages it needs such as wind and water to be a world leader in Micropower applications throughout our country.
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 whether you request to make a brief statement before the Committee when it comes to consider your petition.

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 ........................................... 2 l Feb 2006 ...........................................

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
Good Morning,

The public’s response to this petition does not truly reflect its interest in, as opposed to its awareness of, Micropower renewable energy. To some extent this may be due to the way the petition system operates and possibly Dr Carman’s ongoing study into the petitioning system may come up with some answers and recommendations.

However my experience in talking to members of the public about renewable energy for the home and small businesses leads me to believe there is a wealth of ignorance and misconception about cost, availability, suitability and installation of Micropower generally.

I welcome the recent reintroduction of the very small amount of £3 million in grant aid for Micropower installations but it is miniscule in relation to the need to bring about a widescale introduction of affordable, technically efficient and simple to use power and heat generating technologies into family homes and business premises of every type. We cannot afford not to afford more

Just as in the campaign to introduce Broadband across Scotland, I have realised that yet again a massive programme of raising public awareness is essential. One of the real success stories of that campaign was the Broadband Bus, which toured local communities to demonstrate the technical options. Maybe we need to revisit that idea. There is much that can be done and it need not be an expensive element in the overall cost but it does require parliamentary support from all parties and a clear strategy up front

Direction must be given by the Executive in a much more forceful way to local authorities to get over the planning obstacles that still exist locally to block Micropower. Some of the horror stories here defy credibility. Indeed perhaps it is now time to legislate for Micropower in every new build or major refurbishment. Now that really would send the right message!

I hope that the committee will be of the view that Micropower generation has a significant part to play within Scotland’s total power generation targets but a VITAL part to play in raising public awareness on environmental matters and that it must be both funded and promoted much more than is the case at present.

/ Alan Kennedy

5th June, 2006
Public Petitions Committee – a template for e-petitions

Should you wish to submit an e-petition allowing signatures to be gathered online 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.

Chris Bartter, Chair, 7:84 Theatre Company

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 Chris Bartter, on behalf of 7:84 Theatre Company, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to act urgently to prevent the closure of 7:84 Theatre Company.

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: 31 May 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 petitioner hereby acknowledges and marks support for:

- the valuable contribution that this company has made and continues to make to Scottish culture;
- the unique role it plays in bringing political topics to the stage, encouraging debate, engaging communities and their elected representatives in political discourse through theatre across the country;
- the outreach work undertaken by the company that has enabled over 2300 people just in the last year to participate in producing their own work and has enabled participants, some of whom who have felt otherwise excluded by society, to get their own voice heard; and
- the opportunities presented by and support from this company for developing fresh talent in Scottish theatre, as demonstrated by the 7:84 Writers Summer School and readings.

Across Scotland, theatre companies that have enabled communities across the country to access the theatre for decades are threatened with imminent closure.

The Scottish Arts Council has decided that some will be allocated funding until March 2007, with possible access to ad hoc project funding from then on. However, 7:84 Theatre Company sees all funding cease in August and almost definite closure. With the current outlook, the company will not exist to be able to compete for ad hoc project funding in 2007.

With it will go the high profile work it has been famous and valued for, making political issues accessible and challenging through theatre which tours to remote and disadvantaged parts of Scotland. For decades it has been bringing people to the theatre that would otherwise not have the opportunity to go.

The outreach work with people across the community – largely with those whose voices are often excluded - will be lost as well. There are thousands of people who, without 7:84, would not have had such an opportunity to get their own voices heard or gain confidence through participation in theatre – over 2000 last year alone. In the future, others will not have this opportunity.

Although other companies will face funding uncertainties from March 2007, 7:84 is the only one that faces the cut in August. It has been dealt with in a different way to all other companies and it is not clear why.

Without urgent action, the closure of 7:84 will be inevitable. The demise of the company will leave a void not filled by any other in Scotland. Since it was established, it has had and continues to have a unique and vital role in Scottish life and our society will be the poorer without it.

Since the announcement, 7:84 has been inundated with messages of support. This petition has been set up to enable people across Scotland and beyond to demonstrate their support for 7:84 to be saved.
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 have been regular representations to and meetings sough: with Scottish Arts Council over the course of the last few years.

There have been meetings and continued dialogue with Members of the Scottish Parliament.

Support for 7:84 has been demonstrated by Members in various Parliamentary motions.

A meeting has been sought with the Minister for Culture.

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.

Since the announcement that all funding is to be cut, 7:84 has been inundated with messages of support. This e-petition has been set up to allow people to get their comments heard in a public forum and will be presented to the Petitions Committee of the Scottish Parliament soon, with a call for the Scottish Executive and Scottish Arts Council to act immediately to save this valued company.

Thanks to all supporters for their efforts to save 7:84.

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.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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
7:84 Briefing Document for the Public petitions Committee  
Meeting of 14 June 2006-06-06

Thank you for taking the time to consider this petition. Nearly 1,700 people from across the world have signed this e-petition. 7:84’s grant will run out in August 2006

Background to the position of the company

Who are we?
7:84 is Scotland’s only political touring theatre company, dedicated for 33 years to bringing accessible theatre that entertains and politically energises to people across Scotland. Over the past three years we averaged 75 touring performances per year and 10,000 audience members per year. Praise for recent 7:84 tours includes:

‘Full of black humour and sharp dialogue’ Kirsty Wark (Guardian) on Borderland, Autumn 2005 tour

‘There are hundreds of thousands of ordinary citizens who would recognise this play, far more than any other produced in Scotland in recent months, as having something to do with them and the real-life dilemmas they face’ – Joyce McMillan (Scotsman) on Freefall, Spring 2006 tour

Outreach
7:84’s ground-breaking outreach projects work with some of the most marginalised and disenfranchised groups in Scotland to use theatre as a tool to express their views and voices in communities. Recent projects like Right Here Right Now and Unheard Voices brought young offenders and homeless people into the Scottish Parliament to perform to MSPs. Last year 7:84 ran 23 outreach projects with 3400 participants.

SAC actions
The Scottish Arts Council’s recent Strategic Review labelled 7:84 as an ‘audience focussed’ company, and as such it no longer fell within their new funding remit, along with other notable touring theatre companies (Borderline, Theatre Babel), and some venues such as the Citizen’s and Byre theatres.

Two points should be made as far as their actions were concerned;
1) The criteria for considering the funding applications was changed by the SAC, AFTER the submission of application forms. No opportunity was afforded the companies to revise their applications.
2) Two theatre companies, who were not core-funded, and as such had NOT applied for core-funding, were phoned up by SAC officials and offered funding without any plans or assessment of them.
Unique case
We know you have considered a similar petition from Borderline Theatre Company. However we do feel that, for all the similarities, there are unique features affecting 7:84 which did and do not apply to Borderline. Namely

1) Our grant runs out mid-August 2006 with no 'bridge' of funding to the new funding regime. Indeed our appeal to the SAC will not be heard until mid-August at the time our funding runs out! - Borderline has full funding until March 07, when all companies have been told they can apply for funding under the new criteria. Obviously this means we are threatened with not being in existence to apply for these funds.

2) Our 06/07 application was judged on the new Strategic Review Criteria, (applicable from March 07) a year ahead of everyone else - this is discriminatory and the basis of our appeal against the decision. It was also not the criteria that we were told would apply to the bid we put into the SAC for 06/07.

3) Unlike Borderline, there has been a change of artistic direction in the past 3 years with greater political engagement and improved assessments with no improvement in our SAC relationship. (the breakdown of the SAC assessments in the enclosed briefing shows the differences between those assessed by the SAC officer direct and those by other 'outside' assessors.)

4) Also unlike Borderline 7:84 has a different remit and objective. We are a national political touring theatre company. We aim to both tour and run outreach in parts of Scotland that do not traditionally get to see theatre. In this we have been very successful, attracting new audiences to drama across Scotland and from disadvantaged groups.

Appeals machinery
7:84 are appealing the decision through the SAC's appeals process and are awaiting a date for a hearing with the SAC Appeals Committee. This is a standing committee of the SAC, comprising of four Council members with an independent Chair, Solicitor Nicholas Whyte.

7:84 are appealing on two grounds: Firstly that the SAC failed to follow their published procedures when considering our application and secondly that the decision was wholly unreasonable.

Funding dilemma
7:84's funding runs out in mid-August 2006 and no 'wind-down' funds have been offered. The SAC Drama Officer states in her report on 7:84's application that the company has been on a year's notice and is therefore not entitled to any wind-down funds. However the company had never been informed of this and an application for funds covering 2007 – 2009 was accepted by the SAC.

The funding decision contravenes stated SAC aims to allocate at least six months wind-down funds to long-term core funded companies like 7:84. This has resulted in both
touring and outreach projects being aborted mid-way through their process. This is an unreasonable way to treat 7:84.

The company has been told it can apply for one-off project funds from April 2007 but with no money allocated to manage the transition, any application is hampered by a lack of staff and resources.

Are we poor quality?
7:84 have also been criticised for poor artistic quality through the SAC's assessment process which uses both SAC staff and external advisers. Under the direction of Lorenzo Mele, the company's Artistic Director, the company show assessments were as follows: 9 Good, 8 Competent and 2 Poor. Once the SAC's Drama Officer own assessments are excluded, the breakdown is 9 Good and 7 Competent. External expert advisers, along with our 10 000 audience members, rate the company's work more highly than the SAC drama officer.

What can you do?
It is hoped that you can put pressure on the SAC to reverse its decision and honour the large audience that wants to continue to see and be part of 7:84's work.

The petition has gathered nearly 1700 signatures expressing their hope that the Scottish parliament can help 7:84 survive.

To do this we would like the PP committee to
1) write to the SAC urging a rethink on the funding of this important company, and
2) to write to the Minister for Culture to ask if there are ways in the new cultural structure she envisages that 7:84 can have its National identity and remit for touring political theatre, and/or work with disadvantaged groups recognised.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

For more information contact either:
Lorenzo Mele, Artistic Director on Lorenzo@784theatre.com or 07855 778 120
Or Chris Bartter, Chair, on chris.bartter@unison.org.uk or 07715 583 729
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Details of principal petitioner:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please enter the name of person and organisation raising the petition, including a contact address where correspondence should be sent to.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Minnery, Chairperson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text of petition:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The petition should clearly state what action the petitioner wishes the Parliament to take in no more than 5 lines of text, e.g.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petition by David Minnery, on behalf of East Renfrewshire Tenants &amp; Residents Federation, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to review the implementation of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 to ensure that local authority landlords are in compliance with the Act, particularly in relation to tenant participation and consultation in the management of housing and related services.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period for gathering signatures:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing date: 5 June 2006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a template for e-petitions, July 2004
Additional information:

1. Withdrawal of warden services to sheltered housing without any consultation, affecting some of our most vulnerable tenants and denying them of their statutory right of Participation and Consultation.

2. The plundering of Housing Revenue Accounts to fund General Account obligations, again without any consultation with tenants and RTO's.

3. Corporate Management teams and Council Departments, other than Housing, do not believe that the legislation applies to them and continue to deny tenants their statutory right to Participation & Consultation in matters that affect, or are likely to affect them.

4. To request that Housing Revenue Accounts are ring-fenced to be used for housing issues [tenanted] only.

5. There appears to be a pattern developing, where other Council Departments are coming up with plans that affect, or are likely to affect tenants, but deny them their statutory right to Participation & Consultation stating that they have no statutory obligation to consult with tenants.

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.

We have contacted the following in attempts to find a resolution/compliance with the legislation:-

ERC Chief Executive
ERC Director of Central Services
ERC Director of Environment
ERC Director of Social Work
ERC Director of Community Services
ERC Head of Housing
Kenneth MacIntosh MSP
Communities Scotland Regulation & Inspection
Communities Scotland Tenant Participation Development Team
The Deputy Minister For Communities
The Minister For Communities

We have been left with no other option but to petition parliament to protect the statutory rights to Participation, Consultation and the interests of tenants, not only in East Renfrewshire but across Scotland.

We have had very little or no response from most of the above.

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.

The Denial of statutory rights to Participation and Consultation may only affect tenants, for now, some tenants are able to defend their rights, but who will defend the rights of our most vulnerable tenants in sheltered housing?

It is tenants today, but tomorrow it could be you! The law applies to us all so we cannot pick and choose which parts we want to comply with and disregard other parts to suit, we would urge everyone to support this petition and to inform your family, friends and colleagues to do likewise.
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

Check box

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>David</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minnery...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Date ...

Tuesday 9th MAY 2006

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

a template for e-petitions, July 2004