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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Details of principal petitioner:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catriona Lessani</td>
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<th>Text of petition:</th>
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<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>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>Petition by Catriona Lessani, on behalf of the Parents Action Group of St Kevin’s Primary School, calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to review the implementation of its guidance on school closures to ensure that parents and pupils are properly consulted.</td>
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<th>Additional information:</th>
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<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

Jack McConnell First Minister Scottish Executive, Peter Peacock Education Minister Scottish Executive, Michael O’Neill Director of Education North Lanarkshire District Council, Elaine Smith MSP, Alex Neil MSP, Carolyn Leckie MSP, Donald Gory MSP, Margaret Curran MSP, Councillor Andy Burns, Councillor Jim Smith, Councillor Tom McGuinness, Director of Services Murdo Maciver, Ron Defour Education Officer, Charles Gray Convenor of the Council.

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

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
Additional Information

The parents and community of Bargeddie feel that there was no consultation process done regarding St Kevin’s Primary. Our reasons for this are as follows:

1. The new intakes for the last 3 years were never "consulted" and never told that there was to be any joint campus built in the village, even when plans were in the school this also includes this years intakes who when registered in Jan 06 of any information on any joint campus and were only told officially on Friday 24th March that their child would be decanted from St Kevin’s Bargeddie to St James Coatbridge (4 miles away).

2. Focus groups were to be set up at the beginning of the consultation process, this never occurred in Bargeddie.

3. Public meetings were to be arranged, but we were not intitled to this as NLC could not get round all schools.

4. The children of St Kevin’s have never been consulted in any way by (NLC) or St Kevin’s School which is in breech of their Human Rights as stated in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights The Convention of the Rights of the Child (Article 12).

5. All petitions and objections submitted to (NLC) have never been considered at any point in the consultation process. NLC "consultation process" is only a paper exercise and formality.

6. Senior Council and Education officials have left parents and the community of Bargeddie angry and left feeling intimidated at the way they have been treated and spoken to. The convenor of the council singled out a parent at a meeting and called her a "Ring Leader" he also shouted abuse at a parent who was sitting in the public gallery of an education committee meeting while the meeting was still going on. When one community group advised him about a play park that they were about to get the lease for, he stated he could take the lease back off them if he wanted to. The councils Head of services called a peaceful demonstrator "a twat", he also told respected senior citizens at another peaceful demonstration "why don’t you all go home and watch Coronation Street". The final straw was when the local publican telephoned the Head Master of St Kevin’s to advise him that councillors would not be attending a school board meeting because other representatives of political parties would be at the meeting.

7. Parents are only asking that their democratic rights to be listened to and are there for asking the petitions committee to give them the chance to let their voices be heard by conducting the consultation process again and let the council be impartial and listen to what the community wants and resist the temptation of putting money before children’s human rights.