The Committee will consider the following new petitions—

**PE997** Petition by Peter Cox, on behalf of the Mothers for Justice Campaign, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to provide greater protection to the children and partners of abusive parents by introducing legislation to ensure that (a) where an allegation of abuse has been made against a parent, access rights are suspended pending a full investigation; (b) all previous convictions of an abusive parent are taken into account before access rights are granted; (c) all access hearings are held in open court; and (d) all sheriffs who deal with child custody cases are given appropriate training.

**PE1005** Petition by Harry Conroy, on behalf of the Scottish Catholic Observer calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to ensure that the act of blessing oneself does not result, in any circumstances, in a police investigation or criminal proceedings.

**PE1003** Petition by Sydney Johnson calling for the Scottish Parliament to revoke the Shetland Islands Regulated Fishery (Scotland) Order 1999.

**PE1002** Petition by Tina Wilson calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to prevent private sector developers from receiving public subsidy in relation to the provision of affordable housing.

**PE1001** Petition by Damian Pavillard, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to remove the requirement that appeals to a local valuation appeals committee, against decisions made by a local authority in relation to council tax payment, be initiated within a two month period.

**PE1016** Petition by Mev Brown, on behalf of the NHS First party calling for the Scottish Parliament to scrap Criminal Legal Aid and to create a Public
Defenders Office responsible for undertaking the role of defending those accused of criminal offences who cannot pay for their own defence, and that the Public Defenders Office should be phased in over a period of four years to allow law firms and practitioners to adjust to the new service.
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

Peter Cox

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 Peter Cox, on behalf of the Mothers for Justice Campaign, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to provide greater protection to the children and partners of abusive parents by introducing legislation to ensure that (a) where an allegation of abuse has been against a parent, access rights are suspended pending a full investigation; (b) all previous convictions of an abusive parent are taken into account before access rights are granted; (c) all access hearings are held in open court; and (d) all sheriffs who deal with child custody cases are given appropriate training.

Additional information:
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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.

Measures for Justice campaign launched at the request of Scottish Sun readers being forced to hand their children to abusive partners to access visits.

Petitioners appearing before the Committee
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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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
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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
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Harry Conroy (Editor)

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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 Harry Conroy, on behalf of the Scottish Catholic Observer, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to ensure that the act of blessing oneself does not result, in any circumstances, in a police investigation or criminal proceedings.

Additional information:
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We at the SCO contacted the Crown Office to try and obtain clarification that the act of blessing yourself would not be considered a criminal offence in any circumstances. No such clarification was given to us or Alex Salmond MP who also contacted the Crown Office.

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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 | ☐ |

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Signature  .............................................................................................................

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

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Sydney Johnson

Text of petition:

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Petition by Sydney Johnson calling for the Scottish Parliament to revoke the Shetland Islands Regulated Fishery (Scotland) Order 1999.

Additional information:

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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 ☐

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Details of principal petitioner:
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Tina Wilson

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 Tina Wilson calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to prevent private sector developers from receiving public subsidy in relation to the provision of affordable housing.

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:**

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Explanatory email from Katrina McWilliam, Planning Officer, P & K Council

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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
- [x] 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 …Tina Wilson……………………………………………………

Date 9th August 2006…………………………………………………………..

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

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The Scottish Parliament,
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Details of principal petitioner:
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Damian George & Sandra Mary Pavillard,

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 Damian Pavillard calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to remove the requirement that appeals to a local valuation appeals committee, against decisions made by a local authority in relation to council tax payment, be initiated within a two month period.”

Note: Only to be applicable when a local authority has, for whatever reason, failed to inform a householder of their right to such a hearing at the time that a local authority notifies a householder of any change of disposition to their council tax.
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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SEE ATTACHED ADDENDUM TO THIS PETITION.

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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
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.

Mev Brown

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.

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Petition by Mev Brown, on behalf of the NHSFirst party, calling for the Scottish Parliament to scrap Criminal Legal Aid and to create a Public Defenders Office responsible for undertaking the role of defending those accused of criminal offences who can not pay for their own defence, and that the Public Defenders Office should be phased in over a period of four years to allow law firms and practitioners to adjust to the new service.

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: 10 November 2006
Legal aid has been getting a lot of bad publicity recently.

On the one hand lawyers and advocates don’t think they get enough for their services with solicitors and advocates venting fury at the levels of legal aid fees, threatening strikes, boycotts and so on. There is talk of a new body to represent criminal legal aid practitioners.

According the criminal legal aid registrar, around 10% of firms have dropped off the register in the last 5 years alone.

On the other hand, the public feel they get too much. They see the likes of Gordon Jackson earning around £250,000 in fees topping up his day job as a Labour MSP - or they see Paul McBride earning over £350,000, or Donald Findlay on over £300,000.

They see the legal aid bill topping £150million, and compare this to £270 million the Scottish Prison Service or the Procurator Fiscals service at £80 million.

Clearly the status quo can not be sustained and the best way forward for all concerned is to scrap criminal legal aid.

The proposal is to phase in the Public Defenders Office over a 4 year period. This will give practitioner firms and lawyers a period of adjustment to the new system and limit disruption.

As a party, we want to highlight that while we are committed to the NHS, we are not a single issue party, and we are also committed to good governance and value for money to the taxpayer – and criminal legal aid does not represent good value for money.
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 have asked Mike Pringle, my local MSP, to raise this matter in the Scottish Parliament. Email attached.

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.

Many feel the Criminal Legal Aid system does not give value for money. The public sees individual cases costing the taxpayer nearly half a million pounds or Paul McBride earning over a third of a million or Gordon Jackson, MSP earning nearly a quarter of a million.

Many feel it is time for change.

I hope you agree.

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I DO NOT request to make a brief statement before the Committee
Signature of principal petitioner:
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Signature

Date

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Edinburgh
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Tel: 0131 348 5186       Fax: 0131 348 5088
e-mail: petitions@scottish.parliament.uk

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