The Committee will consider the following new petitions—

**PE1004** Petition by David Adam calling for the Scottish Parliament to consider and debate the environmental impact of animal gasification plants and to urge the Scottish Executive to ensure that the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency has sufficient powers and resources to adequately deal with the environmental problems associated with burning and rendering animal carcasses.

**PE1017** Petition by William Wilson calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to establish a Scottish disability community development council to provide those with life-term disabilities with health, education, training and arts related “Support for Life” assistance in order to combat benefit dependency, poverty and social/community isolation.

**PE1019** Petition by Imran Hayat calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to start a nationwide health promotion campaign to raise patient awareness of the proper use of antibiotics in order to combat antibiotic resistance.

**PE1007** Petition by Catherine Walker, on behalf of Greater Knightswood Elderly Forum, calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to prevent the improper use of disabled parking bays and to ensure that they are used by registered disabled users only.

**PE1009** Petition by William and Angela Flanagan calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to assure justice in local planning matters for third parties seeking redress and financial recompense where Planning Authorities have acted in error, by the provision of an Advocacy service to represent them through the regular court system.
PE1018 Petition by Keith Green, on behalf of Save NHS Dentistry (Kinross Group), calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to restore NHS dental services throughout Scotland.
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

Mr. David Adam,

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 David Adam calling for the Scottish Parliament to consider and debate the environmental impact of animal gasification plants and to urge the Scottish Executive to ensure that the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency has sufficient powers and resources to adequately deal with the environmental problems associated with burning and rendering animal carcasses.

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.

| Scottish Member of Parliament John Swinney (Letters attached) |
| Angus Councillor Joy Mowatt (E-Mails available) |
| Rob Ebbs of SEPA (E-Mails available) |
| Ronan Doyle of SEPA (E-Mails available) |
| Alan Jess, Managing Director from Sacone (Local Cllr. correspondence) |
| Andy Jenkins, Environmental Officer from Sacone (Local Cllr. correspondence) |
| Brechin Community Council (Minutes Available) |
| Mike Weir MP (Local Cllr. correspondence) |
| Ian Hudgton MEP (Letter attached) |
| Mr. David Brookes, Design Engineer of Brookes Gasification Process (Letter attached) |

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
31st July 2006

Dear Mr. David Adam,

Kind regards,

I am aware of the recent correspondence from the various agencies and the need to address the concerns raised by the parents. I believe it is important to ensure that the transition process for the children is handled sensitively and effectively. I am committed to working closely with all parties involved to ensure a smooth transition.

Yours sincerely,

David Adam
Johan Swamy MEP, 32 Pimlico Street, Battersea, London SW1X

Dear Mr. Shaw,

Yours sincerely,

John Swamy MEP

---

Date: 9 August 2006

Dear Ms. Shaw,

Thank you very much for your letter of 22 July. It is quite unacceptable that there are so long for the matter to be resolved satisfactorily.

Thank you very much for your letter of 22 July. It is quite unacceptable that there is no end in sight for this matter to be resolved satisfactorily.

Second Environmentally

Dear Ms. Shaw,

9 August 2006

DD9 TFL
BREXIN
24 Drudding Park

Ms. Shaw

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Image of a stamp and the words:

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Ian Hudghton

Leader of the European Parliament

Scottish National Party
FINANCING

Scotland's

Executive

Directorate

for Environment

and Forestry

Scotland's

Strategic

Plan

for Forestry

2020-2025

Draft

5

Scotland's Strategic Plan for Forestry 2020-2025

Executive Director for Environment & Forestry Development

Executive Director

Scotland's Strategic Plan for Forestry 2020-2025
Public Petitions Committee – a template for e-petitions

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Details of principal petitioner:

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

William 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 William Wilson calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to establish a Scottish disability community development council to provide those with life-term disabilities with health, education, recreation, training and arts related “Support for Life” assistance in order to combat benefit dependency, poverty and social/community isolation.

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: 17 November 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.

I am writing to you in order to request and hopefully enlist the support and endorsement of the Scottish Parliament, for the promotion of what I personally consider to be new progressive initiatives and public service implementations that are designed to help severely disabled unemployed individuals. This proposal is based upon the creation of a programme of initiatives directed towards improving the community welfare and economic development for people with severe physical or mental disabilities. This submission which I have informally designated the Scottish Disability Community Development Council, is chiefly a proposal aimed at providing a greater degree of social accountability and support and to improve and encourage the 'empowerment' through affirmative action, of disabled people within our community. These changes in policy and in social facility are desperately required to fully assist people who are definitely more economically and socially disadvantaged and a great deal more vulnerable than most other minority groups within our Scottish society.

One problem is that, over the years, successive governments and local authority groups have applied a broad spectrum of policy initiatives and projects aimed at providing what they, themselves, believed to be 'positive' and 'progressive' solutions for the special needs that exist within this community stratum. However, it is also sadly true that many of these programmes and projects, quite literally lacked constructive substance as they were developed and initiated by 'able-bodied' politicians and councillors who rarely had no direct understanding of, or no recourse to first hand experience of disability at the grass roots level. Therefore it has meant that most official disability policy measures have been aimed at those individuals with disabilities who have the physical or mental capacity to work within the mainstream of employment. I have to say at this point, that as in most cases where politicians deal with the needs of minority groups, especially of this nature, it is very often important to include members of that group to help develop achievable and realistic goals when building the means to create 'positive' change.

I personally call for the creation of a pilot scheme on behalf of the Scottish Disability Community Development Council, and this to be set-up within my home area of West Lothian, and perhaps within Livingston, where there is quite a substantial population of people with disabilities, and while some of these individual are fortunate enough and able enough to be in part time or full time employment. Most however, are not, and many are simply classed by local employers as 'unemployable' at least in mainstream industry and employment. This of course leads to social isolation and economic stress, which in turn creates a vacuum within their daily lives. Therefore unfairly condemned to a life time of benefit dependency and boredom, on any normal day, several of these individuals will spend a great deal of time within the Livingston Almondvale shopping complex, for instance and other similar places, simply because, [a] they have the opportunity to spend time with other people instead of remaining alone at home; Even if they cannot afford to shop there! [b] They will also spend time at the libraries, community centres, a local swimming pool and almost anywhere, where there is at least some sign of life, as after all, it is a basic need to find a source of human company and companionship. This problem of social isolation and segregation is one that to a high degree, has become a fundamental dilemma within every community in Britain and in very few cases is this obstacle to normal life support adequately addressed.

Granted, some progress has been made in the areas of a disability bill of rights and as far as it goes, and inclusive new disabled employment strategies, complimented by the EU legislations within the areas of British disability transport and access. Also some changes have been made in other equally viable areas. Yet, despite this, the needs of a large part of the Scottish disabled community have unfortunately been ignored. For this and other reasons, my proposal is to establish a programme of objectives which relate to the creation of new measures dedicated to building realistic bridges for the disabled within the community of West Lothian as a pilot scheme. It is essential for the welfare of the Scottish community, that we deal with these serious problems such as long or life-term unemployment and poverty, benefit dependency, social isolation and lack realistic care or recreational amenities by establishing a positive 'Support For Life' strategy within the community. The general work of the Scottish Disability Community Development council is to identify these problems, whether they exist within our society, our public and social service provision, or within any aspect of normal community life. These difficulties and faults within the infra-structure of our community mechanism
must be researched, profiled and then finally realistic and practical solutions can be initiated.

We also have to establish advanced protocols within which the policy decisions made by the Scottish Parliament, local authority and other socially authoritative groups will include some representation and consultation inclusive to those minority groups that require a level of special needs provision within any policy and legislation under political appraisal.

The people within Scotland with extremely severe and life-term disabilities have always been a very insular and socially isolated minority within our society. We also need to build within our 'Support for Life' programme ways to assist people to deal with those personal problems created by poverty and social isolation, where it impacts upon the individual. The most difficult of which are concerns with stress, depression, lack of confidence and self-esteem. Also financial and debt related problems, where they create further barriers to a full and viable life. In point, we need to help to 'empower' the disabled within our communities to help them to believe both in themselves and in the local authority groups pragmatically designed to assist them. To offer real faith that there is hope for change within their lives in the future.

I personally believe it to be time that these issues should be stringently reviewed both at the Scottish Parliamentary and local authority level to finally ensure that everything practical is done in order to improve matters for people in this unfortunate circumstance.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting an e-petition:

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In the process of building the fundamental initiatives and ideas before compiling the feasibility plan for the Scottish Disability Community Development Council I have voluntarily worked with various disability groups, and organisations and as a severely physically disabled person myself I have a great deal of experience in these matters.

Having founded and developed DISCOM (Disability Communications through Technology) as a Scottish Charity several years ago I recently introduced the plan for a Pilot scheme for the Disability Community Development Council by approaching several MSP's as detailed below, with a copy of the feasibility study.

I. Bristow Muldoon MSP Livingstone Scottish Labour.
II. Fiona Hyslop MSP Lothians Scottish National Party.
IV. Mark Ballard MSP Lothians Scottish Green Party.
V. Andrew Arbuckle MSP Mid Scotland and Fife Scottish Liberal Democrats.
VI. Colin Fox MSP Lothians Scottish Socialist Party.
VII. Robin Harper MSP Lothians Scottish Green Party.
VIII. Kenny MacAskill MSP Lothians Scottish National Party.
IX. Margo MacDonald MSP Lothians Independent.
X. Mary Mulligan MSP Linlithgow Scottish Labour.
XI. The Right Honourable George Reid MSP Scottish Disability Equality Forum.

I received several email replies to my enquiries and most offered some support for the general ideas behind my initiatives and public service implementations.
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 disability community will always be with us and unless medical science can find a way to stop people becoming disabled then this socially insular minority group will always be a part of our community. It then becomes the duty and the prerogative of our Parliament and our Local authority groups to put in place not only a social and financial benefit safety net for this minority group, but to ensure that people with life-term disabilities can make the very best of their "abilities" by establishing the of initiatives and services that are designed to help them make the best of their disadvantaged life situation. Life can be very difficult and extremely stressful due to unemployment, benefit dependency and the poverty that is all too often a part of being severely disabled. We need a "Support For Life" Programme Now!

Petitioners appearing before the Committee
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I DO request to make a brief statement before the Committee
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Signature of principal petitioner:
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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
My primary motivation for making contact with our Scottish Parliament on behalf of people with severe and life-term disabilities, was prompted by my personal concern for what I view as a serious lack of resource allocation and public service implementation to help to resolve the many problems and rigours of benefit dependency, poverty, social and community exclusion and housing difficulties that these individuals and families suffer every day. It is all too often the case that people in this situation are forced by circumstances beyond their natural control to deal on a daily basis with life problems that for some are all but intolerable.

Men, Women and families with one or more members with severe and life-term illness or disability are often very special people who seldom complain, but whose very lives are shaped by the serious limitations of their individual handicap. And as each day they must deal with problems and disadvantages in life that few if any of Scotland’s ‘able-bodied’ people can truly understand or imagine without direct experience. As a person with a physical disability, I merely wish to have the opportunity to speak on behalf of those who cannot or will not speak for themselves.

It is incumbent upon the authority of our Scottish Parliament to review these problems and to discuss methods by which they may provide real and progressive solutions to the problems that many house-bound or seriously disabled people have. Many of these concerns can be considered as more significant within Scotland than they are in England or Wales.

This is partly because we have a unique Scottish identity and social infrastructure that impacts upon the disabled community in areas such as housing and social isolation, as well as community, economic and climate based problems that are obviously more prevalent in Scotland. With a smaller population our country has more minor town and isolated village communities which very often lack the resources and facilities to fully assist people in this unfortunate situation.

For some time the majority of homes within these communities were largely local authority or housing association owned, and because of the recent trend in private purchase of council and association houses, this has seriously depleted the stock of rented housing that is suitable for people with physical disability, and while some adapted housing is being built in less urban areas, it does often mean that to have the home you need then you must leave your own community and even your family behind.

When one is benefit dependent unemployed, and in rented accommodation it naturally negates their access to banking related financing or capital loans when they have no other income or savings as collateral. They may require this money for home improvements, or personal needs items of higher cost. For instance, as things stand at this time one can use their Mobility Allowance for the lease lend of either a Motability vehicle or an electric wheelchair, but not both. This is also unfortunate when the individual may require both in order to have a viable source of mobility.

Because many of the problems of our disabled community are both economically and socially based, I feel that it is time to establish a Disability Community Development Council to install the kind of ‘Support for Life’ help that people need at the grass roots level.

When one cannot decorate their home or even clean it, one is left with one option, but to find the funding to pay for services to see that these needs are met. By local authority policy it is generally left to family or carers to do these things, yet, there are times when family will not decorate nor clean the homes of their disabled family members. They often will not even help to maintain the garden of someone who cannot do this for themselves. Imagine the dilemma of any individual left in this predicament. The local authority will only act on either a request from the Social work department or some other authority figure within the community such as the local MSP, MP, doctor or reverend.

To be frank, since the Disability Act 1995 and the subsequent Bill of rights, great strides have been taken to provide assistance and progress in equal opportunities in areas such as education, training and help towards the procurement of employment, whether full or part-time. However, my proposal for the creation for realistic ‘Support for Life’ programmes is aimed at those who cannot
work due to the serious nature of their disability. Therefore they are more often than not benefit dependent, and subject to the indifference, social isolation, exclusion and the apathy of those in authority around them.

Benefit dependency is no substitute nor consolation for a weekly wage, and quite often means a life of significant poverty, subsistence that is impaired by a weekly income that is all too often outstripped by daily financial obligations. To this extent many exist under living conditions that few able-bodied individuals would in reality accept without public objection. People with disabilities put up with this way of life because many are taught from a young age that it does not achieve anything to complain. For as a minority group within our society we have a very small voice within parliament and at local authority level, and this is unfortunately a fundamental basis for many of the problems that I have outlined.

Most people spend more time watching television than doing anything constructive with their lives. For some, the reason is simple, as they have had doors closed in their faces too many times and have given up, or lost confidence and self esteem. Some were virtually abandoned as young five year old children and placed in institutional education, because for several families, having a child with something wrong with them does not enter into their lifestyle, and in these institutes, their preference for care over learning means that many of these young people leave full time education totally unprepared for life in the real world.

Of course there are several organisations that work within certain disability groups, such as Mencap, Capability Scotland and others, but for most there is no organised assistance or charity group to help them.

There is a definite need in Scotland for a centralised authority group that has the organisational power to establish ‘Support for Life’ in every community in Scotland, no matter how far flung that community may be within our nation. Each individual needs to receive some form of help, also the means and facilities that they need to live with dignity and with the knowledge that their lives can be made better despite the disadvantages of having a serious disability.

They need to have a focal point of contact with other disabled people and families not only those who share a common illness or handicap but with others who can assist them to become empowered within their community. By helping to build the individuals self esteem and confidence despite their inability to work within the mainstream, and by offering people an objective outlook they will help to relieve many of the pressures of benefit dependency and social exclusion. We can help ourselves to a better life if given the tools and the funding we need to create a social platform upon which to build bridges into a fairer and more amiable social state.

For some people with disabilities the help that they require is to give them an occupation that while not employment, can give them an activity and pursuit that can lift the despair of inactivity and boredom. This may seem to be a trivial request in the light of the numbers of people out of work in the able-bodied community, but while unemployment benefits are a financial safety net for those who are seeking work, benefits given to the long-term disabled unemployed are not, and have become a life sentence of deprivation and poverty. This must end and only a full economic review of these benefits in Scotland can help to provide alternative means to finance and funding where it is really needed.

People can always change their lives and they can do it with the right kind of support from those people who matter. Those in whose hands rest the power to make those changes where they have substance and to promote real and positive change within a society for the benefit and welfare of this minority group within many people with many individual problems, but one that has no voice. I wish to say that where people with disabilities work, they are known to work harder and to take less time off than able-bodied people, in fact I feel confident that I can venture to say that few disability employers have anything but good to say of those who work for them. Yet, as the old saying goes “Every cripple has his own way of walking” and this is particularly true in our society where individual needs require to be met with individual solutions. If we can create a ministerial or authority group based within the Scottish Parliament with liaison groups throughout Scotland's
district areas, and make sure that every local authority is answerable to it for policy solutions on behalf of individuals and disabled community members. We must ensure community focal centres are created and that people with disabilities are visited by an officer who can sympathetically assess the needs of individuals and families in this situation and to make sure that they can receive the help and support that they really need to live with dignity and with real social equality despite any form of physical or mental difficulty that they may have. Then Scotland will be able to build the most progressive policies towards the disabled community within Britain and within Europe. There are instances where the authority of the Disability community Development Council would need to be able to extend the common strictures and restrictions of current parliamentary legislation and policy in order to assist individuals with the most severe problems, especially in the areas of adaptive technology, which I'm sad to say is really quite primitive in comparison to the equipment available in other countries. For instance, Information technology and computers have created a new wave of exciting devices that can literally change the lives of individuals with the most debilitating problems, examples of this kind of technology relates to examples such as electronic book readers which are passed across a book and converts the written word to audible spoken text for partially sighted and blind children and adults just as there are computer devices that have no visually digital display monitor, but rather a pin board which literally converts a screen full of text and images to analogue pin brail. Of course such technology does not commonly exist in Britain, at least in numbers that is viable for people who are blind within our Scottish communities. There are other like devices which can help people, but the most important is the inclusion of a coded or dedicated Internet Service Provision for the disabled.

Information technology and the internet has the ability to open a very wide window to a much broader world for people who are house-bound or cut off from mainstream social activity, and while there are financial restrictions I firmly believe that a national network of disabled people with the ability to go online with other disabled, can do more in a short time to empower and to release them from social stigma and isolation.

In the past my friends, associates and I created small groups that with the help of several companies such as Scottish Widows and others who would kindly donate older and scrapped computer equipment. We would then beg and borrow further equipment and with an almost scandalous process of match and patch of near compatible devices were able to produce a few working personal computers which we freely distributed to people with disabilities within West Lothian and helped them to learn their use and to go online to the internet. Personally I witnessed situations where individuals were given an almost new lease on life by our work as they were able to make contact with the world and to empower themselves in a wide variety of ways to a more viable life. Communication is a key to social integration and no communication device is more important than the computer. However successful our rather insignificant efforts were, the limited financial prowess of our operations were never able to expand beyond West Lothian. However, it was very apparent that our efforts do reach out to many people who otherwise would be isolated. Obviously we could not find the resources to help those who needed more refined or specialist equipment, but we could either import such materials from America or other countries where they are in daily use to provide these devices for our own people, or, as Scotland has some of the finest universities in the world such as Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling, and Dundee. Establishments like Heriot Watt university which has the most excellent electrical, and electronic research department, I am sure that this fine institutes could help us enormously to develop our own versions of these and other important electronic devices, if we had some dialogue with them on the topic of the needs of our disabled community. Though our past work was purely voluntary and grossly under funded, we did and still do achieve a great deal at the local level in West Lothian, and while I founded the charity I am not now as closely involved, but I am aware that it still functions though to a very limited degree, which is a shame.

I would dearly like to see projects of this nature to blossom and to achieve more throughout Scotland.
My problem is that, though I have worked for many years to reach this goal, with little or limited success, even though I have tried to promote realistic solutions and initiatives for my fellow disabled, but because most politicians would happily listen to what I have had to say, but offer to return only empty platitudes and little else of real substance. With the creation of the Scottish Parliament I choose to make my views known by sending documents to various MSP’s and to submit an e-Petition to the parliamentary website where I received 191 signatures from kind people from a wide variety of locations, but people who agreed with me that it is time that ‘Support for Life’ for the severely and life-term disabled is needed and must remain a viable programme for the future.

The changes that it will create and the bridges that it will build, will establish disabled men and woman as truly equal members of our society with no exceptions or omissions. We will see an end to prejudice and indifference and the structure of a truly fairer society here in Scotland. The avenues for ideas and initiatives to achieve these goals are many and while some require a great deal of capital, most do not, and can be achieved by the will both of the people and the acceptance of society in general. In almost every facet of our community there is a place for people with disabilities if the doors can be opened to them and the support can be provided to assist them to reach their particular goals. Whether in the general employment, the arts, television, music, literature or sport; As the sky is the limit as to where a person with a disability can go. You will of course have seen or heard of those fortunate people with disabilities who have done it, and have changed their lives on their own. Yet, with support many others can follow where they have lead.

I truly want the parliament to openly endorse my proposals not only as they were initially written, but to help me to improve upon them to include areas of need and initiatives that are yet to be identified. It is not enough to simply suggest that we open disability based community education centres with workshops, libraries and café’s, or to offer people the chance to do craftwork to while away their weary days, nor to establish a practical credit union or capital grant scheme. We need to do more than teach a person to make a wicker basket and help them to sell it.

What I ask for is the full support of the Scottish Parliament to establish an organised support programme that has the responsibility to work with disabled people and groups, with MSP’s and local authority and social work representatives including members of the disabled community to build all the things that I have spoken of, and to establish a ‘Support for Life’ for the disabled.

Scotland is waking up as a nation thanks to our Scottish Parliament and as such there exists now an opportunity to make right many of the wrongs done in the past. Several key areas of the Scottish community lack the facilities and public service implementation to help our most vulnerable citizens, and this must include the life-term unemployed disabled. If I can have my wish then we will have our Parliamentary office and a Disability Community Development Council with all the authority and responsibility to review our Scottish community and to put right every problem that we have within society. It will not happen overnight and will require the dedication and hard work of many men and women who share my vision.

However, if this committee is willing to listen to me and to act upon my words I would be of course very grateful, but it is the hundreds of seriously disabled individuals who would be most grateful for any help that the Parliament is willing to provide, now and in the future.

William Wilson  
Tel.....01506 676536  
Mobile.....07737 686722
Disability Facts
The facts are taken from the latest census for Scotland and reveals that over 1 million people in Scotland have a serious disability, or life-term illness. [Taken from data produced by capability Scotland] Each of the facts displayed is an area of disability that is in direct need of progressive and positive 'Support for Life'.

- The typical blind person in Scotland is a woman in her 70s living alone with no contact with social work services and who has not crossed her door in the last week.
- A third of households with a disabled person live on less than £6000 income per year and one in five families with a disabled child live on under £200 per week income.
- 85% of people with severe and enduring mental health problems are unemployed.
- 83% of blind and partially sighted people of working age in Scotland are unemployed.
- 34% of disabled people of working age have no academic qualifications compared to 11% of the non-disabled population.
- A quarter of all pupils with serious sight problems in mainstream schools have no access to books or exam scripts in a format they can read.
- Two thirds of families living with disability do not receive free school meals or clothing grants for dependent children.
- Only 1% of Scotland's housing is barrier free.
- 124,000 households include individuals with mobility difficulties.
- Disabled people are twice as likely to have experienced homelessness.
- Only 12% of buses operating in Scotland have low floors.
- Suicide rates among young Scottish men are double those in England.
- Psychiatric outpatients are nearly twice as likely to die as the general population and four times as likely to die from respiratory disease.
- 16% of people with a longstanding illness or disability are waiting for adaptations or equipment for their home.
- People with learning disabilities are 4 times more likely to be sexually abused than other people.
- 90% of people with learning disabilities are bullied or discriminated against on a regular basis.
- Less than 2% of public appointments are held by disabled people, no MSP's and less than 10% of councillors in Scotland have declared themselves as being disabled.
- 60% of polling places in the 2001 General Election had accessibility problems.
- There are an estimated 4000 deaf/blind people in Scotland; most are elderly without social work contact or services.
- There are 120,000 people with learning disabilities in Scotland only 30,000 of whom are in regular contact with social work and health services.
Public Petitions Committee – a template for e-petitions

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Details of principal petitioner:

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

Mr Imran Hayat

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 Imran Hayat calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to start a nationwide health promotion campaign to raise patient awareness of the proper use of antibiotics in order to combat antibiotic resistance:

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: 1 December 2006
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.

MRSA and other resistant infections are on the increase both in Scotland and the rest of the UK. Unclean hospitals and negligence in personal hygiene by staff have contributed to this significant increase but one of the main factors of antibiotic resistance is caused by the incorrect use of antibiotics whether incomplete dosage as a result of patient negligence or its overuse when doctors over prescribe the drug as a result of pressure from patients or lack of understanding by the Doctor themselves mainly young Doctors [as a result of changes to the medical curriculum where the syllabus for medical microbiology has been significantly reduced or completely omitted]. Unclean hospitals only help to spread resistant pathogens but the root cause of resistance is improper use of antibiotics where it plays a key role in reducing the efficacy and effectiveness of the drug.

Suppose incomplete dosage of the drug is applied to the site of infection, some or most of the sensitive bacteria would die but some would remain as a result of incomplete dosage and undergo repair mechanisms and by the influence of their transposons [movable genetic elements that cause mutations] would undergo mutations that would make them become resistant as a result of environmental stress. This is one of the ways in which bacteria become resistant the other being that according to natural selection, resistant bacteria already exist in nature and that when incomplete dosage is applied the sensitive bacteria decrease in numbers and the resistant ones multiply rapidly. The resistant pathogens multiply rapidly and cause infection and even pass their resistant genes to sensitive bacteria by conjugation. If over use of the antibiotic is applied then all the sensitive bacteria and the gut flora would die [the gut flora would normally keep the resistant pathogen numbers in check] and this leaves the resistant pathogens to multiply rapidly as a result of lack of competition for food and space.

Correct use of antibiotics kills and controls the populations of sensitive pathogens and the dose is such that it doesn’t affect the normal gut flora population too much which then keep the resistant pathogens in check. Resistant pathogens exist in nature but this does not mean that every single individual possesses resistant pathogens but no one knows who carries the resistant pathogen and who doesn’t and hence the uncertainty and the reason why antibiotics normally function well unless taken incorrectly which increases the chances of resistance.

I have campaigned to the government at Westminster about raising patient awareness by the use of televised ads in which they accept has not been used to date and that my campaign is still pending there with the support of my MP. I would like to kick start the campaign in Scotland in which the Scottish executive should start a nationwide campaign through televised ads as well as other forms of communication to the public in which they are made fully aware of the dangers concerning the incorrect use of antibiotics. Public education can play a key role in reducing the amount of MRSA and other resistant infections by helping people to understand the root causes of antibiotic resistance and explaining to them the importance of completing their antibiotic courses correctly. Doctors should be strict upon when to prescribe antibiotics rather than to give in to patient demands or to inappropriately prescribe them to patients. Televised ads help to spread the message across to a wider audience and help to influence people’s minds much more effectively than simply paper pamphlets and posters even though they still should be used along with televised coverage.
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.

Rt Hon Gavin Strang MP [Edinburgh East] – supports my campaign in Westminster
Sarah Boyack MSP [Edinburgh Central] – met during an Edinburgh university labour club meeting
Prime minister Tony Blair
The Secretary of state for health, Patricia Hewitt, Health minister Jane Kennedy - The department of Health
Dr Isobel Rosenstein, scientific secretariat to SACAR [specialist advisory committee on antimicrobial resistance] and head of expert advice support office.
The following are experts and some heads of research departments at the university of Edinburgh who supported my campaign and signed a petition of which I sent to my MP who forwarded it to the Department of Health:
Professor Ian Po xo , Head of medical microbiology, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary / Edinburgh university and editor in chief of the journal of medical microbiology, also chair of the European study group on clostridium difficile
Dr Simon Talbot
Dr Bruce Ward
Dr Gail Ferguson
Dr Maurice Gallagher
Prof Graeme Reid
Dr Jeff Bond [Head of the biology teaching organisation, Edinburgh university]
Dr Jim Deacon

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 Scottish parliament as well as the Scottish executive should do more on raising patient awareness concerning the correct use of antibiotics and should make aware to the public of the dangers of not completing a course of antibiotics as advised by doctors and that the use of televised ads similar to smoking and alcohol abuse ads would be a more effective way of spreading the message to a much wider audience rather than just simply relying on paper pamphlets. Incomplete dosage as well as its overuse can lead to antibiotic resistance and is a key factor in reducing the efficacy and effectiveness of the drug.

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 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

Catherine S Walker
Secretary

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 Catherine Walker, on behalf of Greater Knightswood Elderly Forum, calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to prevent the improper use of disabled parking bays and to ensure that they are used by registered disabled users only.

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.

The Rt. Hon. Miss. Jean Alex, M.P., Glasgow Anniesland, Glasgow
Mr. Robert Booth, Director, Land Services, Glasgow City 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 [✓]
I DO NOT request to make a brief statement before the Committee [☐]

Signature of principal petitioner:

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Signature: .................................................................
Date: .........................................................

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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Edinburgh
EH99 1SP
Tel: 0131 348 5186 Fax: 0131 348 5088
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<tr>
<td>William &amp; Angela Flanagan</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petition by William and Angela Flanagan calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to assure justice in local planning matters for third parties seeking redress and financial recompense where Planning Authorities have acted in error by the provision of an Advocacy service to represent them through the regular court system.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Additional information:</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Any additional information in relation to your petition, including reasons why the action</td>
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**Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition:**

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**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.

Signature: 

Date: 15/03/2023

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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:

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The Scottish Parliament,
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP
Tel: 0131 348 5186   Fax: 0131 348 5088
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Public Petitions Committee – a template for e-petitions

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Details of principal petitioner:

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

Mr. Keith Green

SAVE NHS DENTISTRY (Kinross Group)

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 Keith Green, on behalf of Save NHS dentistry (Kinross Group), calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to restore NHS dental services throughout Scotland.

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 week

Closing date: 30 November 2006
A large number of people in the Kinross area were told about 10 months ago that they would no longer be provided with NHS dental services.

The option available was to join the "Denplan" insurance scheme.

This is not an affordable option for many families, the elderly, and indeed for anyone on a low or fixed income. It also does not provide full cover and substantial additional payments are required for various treatments.

Dental practitioners in the area who have retained a proportion of NHS patients are unable or unwilling to accept new patients for NHS treatment.

As a result, in the absence of an NHS service, many now have no local access to regular dental treatment.

A few people have been successful in accessing an NHS dentist, but this has always been via word of mouth information, and additionally is always out with the area.

Some have tried to obtain treatment at Lynbank (Dunfermline) only to be told that Kinross is not within their catchment area.

The NHS helpline has been of no use: services have been offered as far away as Aberdeen!

The existing emergency service in Perth does not meet the need for a local NHS dental service providing not only emergency but regular dental care.

Provision of NHS dental services has apparently been deteriorating in Scotland for a number of years. Previous generations have had access to NHS dentistry throughout their lives: for future generations this access is being whittled away.

The general level of health in Scotland is reputedly among the worst in Europe and we are aware of the concerns of the Scottish Executive to improve levels of public health. It seems to us that oral health is being excluded from this.

Tayside health board apparently had no awareness of a need for NHS dentistry in this area and no provision for a dental facility was to be made within the new health centre currently under construction in Kinross. We understand that this is to be reconsidered, but we have no timescale.
Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting an e-petition:

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Meetings and discussions have been held with:
Mr. George Reid (MSP)
Mr. Bruce Crawford (MSP)
Mr. Bill Nicholl (General Manager, Community Health Partnership, Tayside)
Dr. MoragCumow (Clinical Community Dental Director)
Ms. Julie Flynn (Head of primary care, Perth & Kinross)
Mr. Willie Robertson (Cllr)
Mr. George Hayton (Cllr)
Kinross Community Council
Mtinathort Community Council

We have held about five public meetings. We have conducted a survey in the Kinross area and have collected approximately 1200 signatures in support of our petition.

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.

In many areas, locally available NHS dental services have all but disappeared.

Emergency services should be routinely available to all, but on-going oral healthcare is equally important.

Maintenance of oral health at a basic level is surely better than waiting for more serious problems to arise before providing treatment.

If NHS dental services are allowed to disappear without protest, it paves the way for a similar action with general medical services. This is already happening in parts of England where it is not possible to register with a GP: private surgeries are being created.

Petitioners appearing before the Committee

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I do NOT wish to make a brief statement before the Committee  [ ]
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Keith Green</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>22 Sep 06</td>
</tr>
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