PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

AGENDA

10th Meeting, 2009 (Session 3)

Tuesday 2 June 2009

The Committee will meet at 2.00 pm in Committee Room 1.

1. **Consideration of new petitions:** The Committee will consider the following new petitions—

   - PE1253 Compensation scheme for pre-NHS negligent treatment
   - PE1254 Amendment to Section 51 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005

2. **Consideration of current petitions:** The Committee will consider the following current petitions—

   - PE1056 Diagnosis and treatment of deep vein thrombosis
   - PE1155 Young offenders
   - PE1159 Healthcare for gulf war veterans
   - PE1162 National Concessionary Travel Scheme
   - PE1169 Display of sexually graphic magazines and newspapers
   - PE1185 Inclusion of sewers and drains in road bonds
   - PE1198, PE1199 & PE1200 Role of health visitors
   - PE1219 Support for talented athletes
   - PE1220 GP Dispensing
   - PE1224 Flag of Scotland in the Chamber
   - PE1228 Referendum on assisted dying

3. **Notification of new petitions:** The Committee will consider a paper indicating new petitions lodged since the last Committee meeting.

4. **Forthcoming work programme:** The Committee will consider a paper from the Clerk.

5. **Inquiry into the public petitions process (in private):** The Committee will consider a draft report.
The papers for this meeting are as follows—

Item 1 - Consideration of new petitions

Item 2 - Consideration of current petitions

Item 3 – Notification of new petitions

Item 4 – Forthcoming work programme

Item 5 – Inquiry into the public petitions process
The Committee is invited to consider the following new petitions—

**PE1253** Petition by James McNeill calling on the Scottish Parliament to compel the Scottish Government to establish a discretionary compensation scheme to provide redress to persons who suffered injury due to negligent medical treatment prior to the establishment of the NHS.

**PE1254** Petition by Mark Laidlaw calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to amend section 51 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 to allow flexibility in order that an employee of a fire and rescue authority can also be employed as a special constable.

Clerk to the Committee
27 May 2009
The Committee is invited to consider the following current petitions and written submissions received—

PE1056 Petition by Gordon, Jane and Steven McPherson calling for the Scottish parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to introduce mandatory assessment tools for all health boards for the diagnosis of deep vein thrombosis (DVT); to ensure commonality of patient guidance information regarding DVT; and to introduce a newborn screening programme for the Factor V gene, which has been shown to increase susceptibility to DVT.  

Written submissions  
PE1056/N: Scottish Government letter of 16 April 2009  
PE1056/O: Petitioner letter of 21 May 2009

PE1155 Petition by Elizabeth Cooper calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to amend the law to ensure that young people aged between 10 and 18 charged with serious offences are tried by the criminal justice system rather than the children’s hearing system.  

Written submissions  
PE1155/E: Scottish Government letter of 15 April 2009

PE1159 Petition by Mrs S Kozak calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to provide NHS Scotland and other relevant organisations and individuals, including veterans of the Gulf War in 1991, with all necessary information and facilities in order that veterans exposed to nerve agents and their preventative medications are assessed, advised and treated appropriately and fatalities are prevented.  

Written submissions  
PE1159/K: Scottish Government letter of 26 March 2009  
PE1159/L: Petitioner's letter of 10 May 2009
**PE1162** Petition by Sally Ann Elfverson, on behalf of the Learning Disability Alliance Scotland, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to amend the National Concessionary Travel Scheme to ensure that people receiving the lower rates of the mobility and care components of Disability Living Allowance are eligible for a National Entitlement Card

**Written submissions**
PE1162/E: Scottish Government letter of 4 March 2009
PE1162/F: Petitioner letter of 6 April 2009

**PE1169** Petition by Margaret Forbes, on behalf of Scottish Women Against Pornography, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to introduce and enforce measures that ensure that magazines and newspapers containing sexually graphic covers are not displayed at children’s eye-level or below or adjacent to children’s titles and comics and should be screen sleeved before being placed on the shelf.

**Written submissions**
PE1169/F: Front Page Campaign letter of 15 April 2009
PE1169/G: Scottish Government letter of 23 April 2009
PE1169/H: Petitioner letter of 27 April 2009
PE1169/I: The Front Page Campaign letter of 29 April 2009

**PE1185** Petition by Andrew Kaye, on behalf of the Coopersknowe Residents Association, Galashiels, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to amend relevant legislation to ensure that sewers and drains associated with roads from new developments are included in road bonds and give local authorities enforcement powers in this regard.

**Written submissions**
PE1185/I: Scottish Government letter of 13 February 2009
PE1185/J: Petitioner letter of 13 February 2009

**PE1198** Petition by Dr Anne Mullin and Dr Phil Wilson, on behalf of the General Practitioners in the South East and South West Glasgow Community Health and Care Partnership area, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to ensure that when changes are proposed to the structure and role of health visitors, transparent, effective and meaningful public consultation with service users and health professionals is carried out.

**Written submissions**
PE1198/T: Petitioner letter of 26 January 2009
PE1198/U: Scottish Government letter of 30 April 2009
PE1198/V: NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board letter of 14 April 2009
PE1198/W: Petitioner letter of 15 May 2009

**PE1199** Petition by Dr Georgina L Brown, on behalf of the General Practitioners in the North Glasgow Community Health and Care Partnership area, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to
ensure that when changes are proposed to the structure and role of health
visitors, transparent, effective and meaningful public consultation with service
users and health professionals is carried out.

**Written submissions**
PE1199/T: Petitioner letter of 26 January 2009
PE1199/U: Scottish Government letter of 30 April 2009
PE1199/W: NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board letter of 14 April
2009
PE1199/X: Petitioner letter of 18 April 2009

**PE1200** Petition by Dr Peter Cawston and Dr Kate Pickering on behalf of the
West Glasgow Community Health and Care Partnership area, calling on the
Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to ensure that when
changes are proposed to the structure and role of health visitors, transparent,
effective and meaningful public consultation with service users and health
professionals is carried out.

**Written submissions**
PE1200/U: Petitioner letter of 26 January 2009
PE1200/V: Scottish Government letter of 30 April 2009
PE1200/W: NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board letter of 14 April
2009
PE1200/X: Petitioner letter of 12 May 2009

**PE1219** Petition by Christina Raeburn calling on the Scottish Parliament to
urge the Scottish Government to ensure that adequate funding is available to
allow young talented athletes in rural areas to travel to competitions at
regional and national levels and provide coaching support and training
facilities across Scotland so that no young talented athlete in a rural area is
disadvantaged as a result of their location.

**Written submissions**
PE1219/H: scottishathletics letter of 20 April 2009
PE1219/I: Scottish Government letter of 21 April 2009
PE1219/J: Petitioner email of 13 May 2009

**PE1220** Petition by Alan Kennedy calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge
the Scottish Government to review all relevant legislation to ensure the
continuance of general practitioner dispensing practices in instances where
commercial pharmaceutical practices apply to operate in the same local area.

**Written submissions**
PE1220/L: Scottish Government letter of 15 April 2009
PE1220/M: SOS Dounby letter of 5 May 2009
PE1220/N: Petitioner letter of 8 May 2009
PE1220/O: Scottish Government letter of 21 May 2009

**PE1224** Petition by John Blyth and Helen McNeill calling on the Scottish
Parliament to consider displaying the flag of Scotland in the Chamber.
**Written submissions**
PE1224/A: SPCB letter of 11 February 2009
PE1224/B: Petitioner letter of 24 March 2009

**PE1228** Petition by George B Anderson, on behalf of the Militant Retired, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to hold a referendum on assisted dying and for there to be a debate in Parliament on this issue.

**Written submissions**
PE1228/A: Scottish Government letter of 11 February 2009
PE1228/B: Petitioner letter of 23 February 2009

**Clerk to the Committee**
27 May 2009
The Committee is invited to note the following new petition lodged on the e-petition site since the last Committee meeting on 19 May 2009—

Petition by Catherine Mitchell on behalf of St Gilbert Primary School calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to take action against those local authorities who have failed to implement a robust asbestos management plan and procedures for school buildings containing asbestos and ensure that parents and teachers who require data about asbestos in school buildings held by local authorities have full access to this.

Clerk to the Committee
27 May 2009
Purpose
1. The purpose of this paper is to invite the Committee to consider the arrangements for an external meeting in September 2009.

Background
2. At its meeting on 24 June 2008, the Committee agreed to hold external meetings across Scotland as part of its inquiry into the public petitions process and to engage with local communities with organisations and people. Since then, the Committee has held a number of extremely successful external public meetings. In December 2008, it met at Berwickshire High School in Duns, in January 2009 met in John Wheatley College, Easterhouse, Glasgow and in March 2009 it met in Fraserburgh Academy.

3. While the inquiry into the public petitions process is nearing its conclusion (the Committee will consider its draft inquiry report at this meeting) it has indicated it is keen to continue to hold further external meetings across Scotland. This will allow it to continue its work in engaging with local communities and take forward some of the conclusions arising from the inquiry.

4. The Committee had previously considered holding a meeting in Alness but, due to timing issues, it was not possible to hold this meeting earlier this year.

Proposal
5. It is proposed that this meeting takes place on Monday 21 September 2009. The proposed venue is Alness Academy. Initial soundings have been taken and this appears to be a suitable venue.
6. Below are the proposed arrangements for this meeting which the Committee is now invited to consider—

- the proposed venue is Alness Academy, Alness
- the meeting will be held in public and will consider new and current petitions some of which will be relevant to the local area
- invitations will be made to a range of local organisations and individuals to attend the meeting and engage with the Committee. This will include—
  - all secondary schools in the local area
  - all local community councils
  - a wide range of youth, community, civic, equalities and disability groups
  - former petitioners

7. The Committee is invited to consider and agree the above arrangements for an external meeting.

Clerk to the Committee
27 May 2009