



PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01135

Name of petitioner

Rob McDowall

Petition title

Review of guidelines to allow healthy gay and bisexual men to donate blood

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to review existing guidelines and risk assessment procedures to allow healthy gay and bisexual men to donate blood.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

I have written to the National Blood Transfusion Service and have written to local MP's.

Petition background information

Giving the gift of life... is denied to gay and bisexual men the UK wide. In such times, when demand for blood far outweighs the supplies available, gay and bisexual men are denied the opportunity to donate blood and are tarred with the brush of high risk, despite their individual lifestyles. Despite (like thousands) of gay men, practicing safe sex and doing everything I can to minimise risk of infection from AIDS and HIV, the UK wide ban on gay blood remains and my blood is not 'good' or 'safe' enough. I am appalled that in a system where non tolerance of homophobia is drummed into everyone at every opportunity, this outdated and offensive law exists. The Scottish Government should stand up and make a commitment to gay and bisexual men in this country and make a decision to remove this law.

At 19, I attended a blood transfusion clinic in Glasgow, only to be confronted with the questionnaire which asks are you a male who has had sex with another male, e.t.c. I walked out in disgust, I was appalled and still to this day, this law exists and gay people are being turned away by the Blood Transfusion service in what can only be described as homophobia and insensitivity.

Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/PE01135>

Related information for petition

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

NO

How many signatures have you collected so far?

1290

Closing date for collecting signatures online

N/A

Comments to stimulate online discussion