



**PUBLIC PETITION NO.**

**PE01452**

**Name of petitioner**

Vince Mills

**Petition title**

People's Charter

**Petition summary**

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to bring forward measures in all areas it has competency to fulfil the aspirations of the People's Charter.

**Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition**

We have been collecting petition signatures via street stalls and at events. We have written to the First Minister and MSPs urging them to support the People's Charter.

**Petition background information**

The People's Charter was launched in response to the current economic crisis and sets out six simple progressive steps that many people believe would bring about a fairer and more just society.

The People's Charter calls for:

1. A fair economy for a fairer Britain.

Take the leading banking, insurance and mortgage industries fully into democratic public ownership run for the benefit of all. Regain control of the Bank of England and keep interest rates low. Tightly regulate the City markets to facilitate lending and to stop speculation and takeovers against the public interest. Ban hedge funds, raids on pension funds, asset-stripping and corporate tax loopholes. Restructure the tax system so big business and the wealthy pay more and ordinary people pay less.

2. More and better jobs.

Existing jobs must be protected. Public and private investment must create new jobs paying decent money. In particular in manufacturing, construction and green technology. More jobs mean more spending power to stimulate the economy, increased tax revenue and fewer people on benefit. Build full employment. Reduce hours, not pay, to create more jobs. Raise the minimum wage to half national median earnings and end the lower rate for young workers.

3. Decent homes for all.

Stop the repossessions and keep people in their homes. Offer 'no interest' loans.

Control rents. We need three million new homes. Give local government the power and money to build and renovate affordable quality homes and buy empty ones, ending the housing shortage, and creating jobs.

#### 4. Protect and improve our public services – no cuts.

Save public money: Bring energy, transport, water and telecommunications back, and keep the post in public ownership. End corporate profiteering in health, education, social and other public services. Stop the EU privatisation Directives.

#### 5. Fairness and Justice.

Free heating and transport for every pensioner. Link state pensions and benefits to average earnings. Protect pension schemes and restore the lost value of private pensions. End child poverty by increasing child benefits and tax credits and providing free nurseries and crèches. Enforce equal pay for women. End racism and discrimination in all its forms. No scape-goating of migrant workers. Invest in young people and give them a real stake in the future. Provide youth, community, arts and cultural centres, sports facilities, and clubs for all. Guarantee training, apprenticeships and education with grants for everyone and no fees. Restore union rights to allow them the freedom to fight the crisis and to protect workers.

#### 6. Build a secure and sustainable future for all.

End the cost of war in blood and money. Bring our troops home. Don't waste billions on a new generation of nuclear weapons. And beyond the current economic disaster, climate change threatens us all. Our future must be based on massive investment for a greener, safer world now. Debt is crushing millions of people forcing them to move and producing war, famine and misery. Get rid of the debt economy in Britain and cancel the debts of the poor of the planet. A better future for all the people of the world.

The following are examples of measures over which the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government have powers that could be readily introduced to start the work of fulfilling the People's Charter:

##### 1. A fair economy for a fairer Britain.

To establish a Commission to extend employee participation and democracy in the workplace.

##### 2. More and better jobs.

To introduce legislation to implement a Scottish Living Wage throughout all Scotland's public services be they delivered by the public, voluntary or private sector.

##### 3. Decent Homes for all.

To increase funding for council house building, especially one and two bedroom properties to help ameliorate the impact of the attacks on Housing Benefit and to introduce a public sector equity release scheme to allow those who wish or need to release equity in their home to do so in a more fair and equitable manner by increasing the social housing stock.

##### 4. Protect and improve our public services – no cuts.

To regulate Scotland's bus services and to explore and exploit every opportunity to bring all Scotland's network rail services back in to public ownership and to protect our ferry services by keeping them under public ownership and control with no hiving off of individual routes.

##### 5. Fairness and Justice.

To require Scottish public sector bodies that set budgets to report on any difference between what is required in terms of identified need against actual budgets set; and to include a clear social impact assessment for all procurement based on equal opportunities, employment and reduction of economic inequality best practice.

##### 6. Build a secure and sustainable future for all.

To promote and support credit unions to develop and expand so that they become a primary provider of financial services to the Scottish people and to fund credit unions so

that they may reach out to those targeted by high interest lenders to offer them fairer access to loans and financial education in order to prioritise the elimination of loan sharking and personal debt.

### Unique web address

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

### Related information for petition

We would very much value your support and comments on this petition and would encourage you to contribute. If you are content for the campaign to have your email address / contact details to provide you with further information, please contact us as follows:

Vince Mills  
Peoples Charter Scotland  
c/o RMT  
180 Hope Street  
Glasgow G2 2UE

Email: [peoplescharterscotland@gmail.com](mailto:peoplescharterscotland@gmail.com)  
[www.peoplescharterscotland.org](http://www.peoplescharterscotland.org)

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

YES

### How many signatures have you collected so far?

1000

### Closing date for collecting signatures online

02 / 11 / 2012

### Comments to stimulate online discussion

The People's Charter sets out a plan of action to get us out of the mess we are in. Its aspirations are eminently achievable and are ones that people with progressive views from all backgrounds can coalesce around. At this time when the rich and powerful are attacking the fabric of our society we need platforms that unite those in opposition to the neo liberal agenda, the People's Charter provides this.