



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01832

Name of petitioner

Jacqueline Shaw

Petition title

Repeal the Public Information Disclosure Act 1998 (PIDA)

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to request that the UK Government repeal the Public Information Disclosure Act 1998 (PIDA).

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

I have contacted several MSPs.

Petition background information

Scotland has seen far too many reports of bullying amongst NHS staff with independent inquiries costing the tax payer millions of pounds which do not affect change to the staff. Examples include the Bowles report 2012, Prof Bells report 2018; both on NHS Lothian and the recent report into NHS Highland.

Patients and relatives are continually let down by a lack of regulator which makes it vital that NHS staff are protected in law. This has to stop, and all employees should not only feel safe to whistle-blow but actual be supported to do so in law.

This Public Information Disclosure Act 1998 (PIDA) is embedded within another law and is acknowledged as being out of date with no protective powers for whistle-blowers.

The PIDA has failed to protect countless UK whistle-blowers when they have protected others by bringing wrongdoing to light. All that PIDA does is allow workers to raise an action against their employer for reinstatement, recovery of lost salary and victimisation, to name a few examples. Unfortunately, by this stage the whistle-blower has suffered at the hands of their employer, many suffering mental health issues due to the relentless victimisation.

I believe the PIDA should be repealed by the UK Government and new legislation should be introduced that would act to protect staff at point of disclosure. It should also be independent of any powers granted to the newly established Independent National Whistleblowing Officer within the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman.

European law has recently voted to give further protection to all whistle-blowers and as

such we should be replicating this despite leaving the EU. It is not a time to be complacent on this important law. Scotland has the opportunity to lead the way in protecting all employees of NHS Scotland.

Very rarely is the Scottish Government asked to act in this way but as it has the power to do so it would be morally responsible to protect individuals and build on the work of a separate response to Robert Francis Speak up review which we currently have within NHSS.

Unique web address

<https://www.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/PIDA>

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?

0

Closing date for collecting signatures online

N/A

Comments to stimulate online discussion