

**PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF PE1364:
QUESTIONS ARISING FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS
(See 'Written submissions' for responses)**

TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2012

Scottish Government—

- Please respond to each of the specific points raised in the petitioner's letter (PE1364/CC).
- The Committee again would ask for clarity on what the review will cover i.e. the terms of reference, with specific reference to how the concerns of private individuals, such as the petitioner, will be taken in to account.
- The Committee requests that the petitioner be invited to be involved in the review process now. Will the Scottish Government confirm that stakeholders, including the petitioner, are brought in to the process now?

TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2011

Scottish Government—

- Can the Minister for Public Health provide the Committee with greater clarity on how the review of the guidelines on managing unauthorised encampments is to be taken forward, to what timescales and on what will be included in the terms of reference? The Committee are particularly interested to hear how individuals such as the petitioner and other private landlords will be able to input to the review.

TUESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2011

Scottish Government—

- Can I draw your attention to the points raised by Nigel Don and Mark McDonald, particularly in respect of temporary illegal sites and what the local authorities should be doing to help private landlords?
- Nigel Don also raised the question with regards to private landowners who find themselves with an illegal camp on their land "If there is a general duty on local authorities to provide sites...is there a general duty on local authorities to help those who find themselves in that position because local authorities have not provided sites"?

TUESDAY 11 JANUARY 2011

Scottish Government—

- What is your response to all the points made by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (PE1364/C) and what specific action(s) will you take to address these?

- As suggested by ACPOS (PE1364/D) and the Equality and Human Rights Commission (PE1364/C), will you clarify the definition of what constitutes an 'Occupational Traveller' or will you remove it from relevant guidelines completely to avoid any confusion with Gypsy/Travellers?
- What action(s) will you take in relation to bullet point 6 in COSLA's submission (PE1364/I)?
- What is your answer to the points raised by the petitioner in her submission (PE1364/K)?
- How will you address the issue of lack of sites?
- How many Gypsies and Travellers' encampments were there:
 - a) 20 years ago;
 - b) 10 years ago; and
 - c) now.

Aberdeenshire Council—

Article 12 in Scotland—

Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland—

Grampian police—

Perth & Kinross Council—

Tayside Police—

- What is your response to the points made by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (PE1364/C) and what action(s) will you take to address these?
- (ACPOS only) Do you consider, in view of the lack of authorised sites for Gypsy/Traveller in Scotland, that the current instructions from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service on the general presumption not to prosecute the crime of trespass, give police authorities sufficient operational discretion to deal with other matter arising in conjunction with the trespass?

CoSLA—

- What is your response to the points made by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (PE1364/C) and what action(s) will you take to address these?
- How many Gypsies and Travellers' encampments were there:
 - d) 20 years ago;
 - e) 10 years ago; and
 - f) now.

Equality and Human Rights Commission—

- What is your answer to the points raised by the petitioner in her submission (PE1364/K)?

Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service—

- Do you consider, in view of the lack of authorised sites for Gypsy/Traveller in Scotland, that the current instructions on the general presumption not to prosecute the crime of trespass, give police authorities sufficient operational discretion to deal with other matter arising in conjunction with the trespass?

TUESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2010—

ACPOS—

CoSLA—

Scottish Government—

Selection of local authorities (Aberdeenshire, Perth & Kinross)—

Selection of police forces (Grampian, Tayside)—

- Are you satisfied that guidelines used by the police and local authorities to manage unauthorised traveller camps such as “occupational travellers” on private land are clear, unambiguous and properly applied? If not, what are the issues that need to be addressed and by whom?
- The concerns and experience of the petitioner and others in their situation is that local authorities and police forces do not step in for fear they could be accused of breaching a policy of non-harassment of ethnic groups. Is this not an indication that the legal definitions of and guidelines relating to the different groups of travellers could be clearer?
- Do “occupational travellers” benefit from the same protection afforded to Gypsies travellers?

Equality and Human Rights Commission—

- What is your view on the issues raised in the petition?
- Do “occupational travellers” benefit from the same protection afforded to Gypsies travellers?

Article 12 in Scotland—

Scottish Gypsy Traveller Law Reform Coalition—

- What is your view on the issues raised in the petition?
- What are the issues that you face under current legislation?