

**PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF PE1367:
QUESTIONS / ACTIONS ARISING FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS
(See 'Written submissions' for responses)**

TUESDAY 15 MAY 2012—

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT—

- The Committee wishes to draw the Scottish Government's attention to the existing research on the health impacts of the device and the evidence given to the Committee by the National Autistic Society (Public Petitions Committee meeting of 21 February 2012). Given the Scottish Government's stated view on the device, the Committee requests that the Scottish Government examine the evidence and advise what action it proposes to take.

TUESDAY 6 MARCH 2012—

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT—

- Please confirm that the view of the Scottish Government is still that it does not support the use of the Mosquito Device.
- Has the Scottish Government taken, or does it intend to take, any advice on ECHR issues relating to the use of the Device?
- When did the Scottish Government last speak to the UK Government about this issue and what was the outcome of those discussions?
- Will the Scottish Government now investigate what powers it could employ to ban the use of the Device in Scotland?

COSLA—

- The Committee noted that local authorities have the option of introducing byelaws to, in effect, prevent the use of the Mosquito Device. Please advise what steps are being taken or what consideration is being given by local authorities to this issue.

TUESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2011—

**Scottish Government
The National Autistic Society
Action on Hearing Loss
The Association of Scottish Community Councils
The Federation of Small Businesses
Compound Security Systems**

Scottish Government—

- In your letter of 5 September you provide an update on discussions that Scottish Government officials had on 2 August with Home Office colleagues regarding the Mosquito deterrent device. Your letter notes

the points made by Home office officials. Please would you detail the points made by the Scottish Government Officials.

The National Autistic Society, Action on Hearing Loss, the Association of Scottish Community Councils, the Federation of Small Businesses and COSLA—

- In October 2010, the previous Public Petitions Committee wrote seeking your views on this petition (see detail below), there is no record of any response. The petition is now under consideration by the current Public Petitions Committee and it has asked for your views as follows:
 - What is your position on banning 'Mosquito' and other such devices? Do you support its continued use or do you oppose it?
 - Do you agree that this device is discriminatory?
 - As this device does not address the underlying problem of anti-social behaviour which might exist in that area, regardless of the age of perpetrators, does this device not simply move young people on from an area or move a problem on?
 - Has your organisation given any consideration to the potential adverse health / behavioural impacts on people caused by these devices (e.g. to young children, autistic teenager, person with a digital hearing aid etc)? *[National Autistic Society and Action on Hearing Loss only]*
 - Do you have any information about the spread and level of usage of these devices across Scotland? *[COSLA only]*

Compound Security Systems—

- What are your views on the issues raised in the petition, the discussions and the submissions received?

TUESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2011—

Scottish Government—

- What precisely do you mean when you say (your letter of 25 January 2011) '*we will consider very carefully all arguments made in relation to these devices; the submissions made to the Committee during the course of its consideration; and the proposals put forward by members of the Scottish Youth Parliament that the devices should be banned*'. How, when and with whom will you consider this? The Committee would welcome more detail on this.

TUESDAY 11 JANUARY 2011—

Scottish Government—

- In the light of the responses from the two local authorities contacted, what is your response to these devices being banned in all local authority areas?
- Are local authorities waiting for the Scottish Government to take the lead on this matter?
- The majority of police forces, the Scottish Police Federation do not favour the use of these devices. Neither does Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People and local authorities contacted do not support their use. Who does? Why continue to use them?
- What is your response to the valid points made by SCCYP?
- You talk, in your 26 November letter, of a need for balance. Given the views of the police and SCCYP, and if there was little support by local authorities, would you ban these devices?
- Do you believe that using these devices creates an acceptable image of Scotland and what its attitude towards young people is?
- Are these devices really an effective and acceptable tool to tackle anti-social behaviour? Surely there are other and more effective ways of tackling anti-social behaviour? What published evidence is there that the devices work and tackle the underlying cause, and don't just move children from one shop to another?

FRIDAY 29 OCTOBER 2010—

Scottish Government—

- What is your position on banning 'Mosquito' and other such devices?
- What actions have you taken in light of your concerns (PQ S3W-32498) 'about the way they [the devices] indiscriminately target young people' and since ['Do the right thing'](#) was published?
- Would you agree that a device which would specifically target say ethnic minorities would be discriminatory and would not be permitted? What is then the difference with this device which targets young people?
- Who supports their continued use and who opposes?
- What consideration have you given to any adverse health impacts on people caused by these devices (e.g. to young children, autistic teenager, person with a digital hearing aid etc)?
- Do you have any information about the spread and numbers of these devices across Scotland?
- Does this device not simply move young people on from an area? It doesn't address the underlying problem of anti-social behaviour which might exist in that area and whether that is being caused by under 25 year olds
- Do you have any concerns about the use of such devices and whether they might constitute an offence of assault?

**Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People
 Scottish Retail Consortium
 Federation of Small Businesses**

Association of Scottish Community Councils
Scottish Police Federation
Association of Chief Police Officers Scotland
Health Protection Scotland
National Autistic Society
Equality and Human Rights Commission Scotland
COSLA
Aberdeenshire Council
City of Edinburgh Council

- What is your position on banning 'Mosquito' and other such devices?
- Would you agree that a device which would specifically target say ethnic minorities would be discriminatory and would not be permitted? What is then the difference with this device which targets young people?
- Who supports their continued use and who opposes?
- What consideration have you given to any adverse health impacts on people caused by these devices (e.g. to young children, autistic teenager, person with a digital hearing aid etc)? *[Health Protection Scotland and National Autistic Society only]*
- Do you have any information about the spread and numbers of these devices across Scotland? *[COSLA only]*
- Does this device not simply move young people on from an area? It doesn't address the underlying problem of anti-social behaviour which might exist in that area and whether that is being caused by under 25 year olds
- Do you have any concerns about the use of such devices and whether they might constitute an offence of assault?
- What powers did you use to ban the use of Mosquito devices? *[Aberdeenshire and Edinburgh councils only]*