

PE1367/AA

To,
The Convener
Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament

01 March 2012

Subject: Letter for consideration with Petition PE1367 in the name of Mr. Andrew Deans

Dear Sir,

It is an immense pleasure to write this letter to you for consideration with the Petition PE 1367. I have already been in contact the petitioner himself.

The freedom of assembly right allows all to form and stand under Article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights to which all the United Kingdom is party.

However when a group of young people threaten the social and civic liberty and life of other people in their communities, law needs to be enforced. It is alarming to note that the respondent had to take steps to ensure the safety of young people and that the use of such devices was warranted by the unfortunate nuisance caused by the youth.

This will not create and move towards a welfare society. While the petitioner may be right, the respondent cannot be denied to use all means to protect himself or anyone who buys his product to use the product in self-defense. This will lead to a social dilemma which has caused the Hon. Members of this Committee to consider this device as either legal or illegal.

We must be determined that more can and needs to be done to ensure that the young people of Scotland do not engage in such activities that disturb the social life of others and therefore there is no need for such a device to be used.

I therefore request the Honourable Members of the Scottish Parliament to kindly consider engaging the young people in more productive activities that would not pose them as threat to other young people. Local Authorities need to step in to reduce the number of such incidents and must seek ways to provide youth a proper involvement platform. The youth need not only education and food, but also need leisure time activities such as Local Youth Councils under the Provost.

The Scottish Government needs to understand the needs of the youth and the time spent by the youth around their neighbourhood. An extensive study would only be able to

conclude the reasons for such delinquency and the best recommendations to mitigate them.

Furthermore, I also request that steps should be taken to advocate among the people that a proper neighbourhood watch is in place. This would ensure that no loitering is occurring and that youth are involved in productive activities.

I also request the Scottish Government to consider a public consultation on whether the use of such devices should be considered to ensure that the public at large has been heard. Other ways could involve making the details of this petition available in local newspapers and media to ensure that all those interested can provide their input in light of which the Scottish Parliament can make a decision.

I hope this letter is of assistance to you.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,

Wajahat Nassar
Pakistan

To,
The Convener
Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament

21 March 2013

Subject: Letter for consideration with Petition PE1367

Dear Sir,

Having heard the view point of Mr. Andrew Deans on the 1st of March 2013, I feel that the Scottish Government must instigate a possible search and survey into the use of the device and to decide on this matter which has remained for more than 2 years now.

I request the Scottish Government to:

1. Establish a team through proper mechanisms to understand the use and deployment of such devices with all local bodies to report to the Public Petitions Committee.
2. If a license is to be obtained for the sale of such devices, obtain information from the sale points and the details of such people who have purchased the device.
3. If a licensing mechanism is not in place, ensure that the vendors maintain a license and ensure that a proper documentation of address and deployment location is in kept in record which could be obtained by the Scottish Government in future if the device is not banned.
4. Call for evidence from young people on the said petition.
5. As with my previous letter PE1367/AA, I still request that the Scottish Government provide mechanisms and public campaigns to keep the society peaceful.
6. Provide powers and provisions to the shopping malls and shop keepers to move an unwanted gathering against a fixed threshold of time, say 10 minutes of gathering, to allow customers to enter.

Stating that the necessary evidence of deployment is not provided undermines the responsibility of the Public Petition Committee, as it would mean that the Committee would have accepted a petition against something that does not even exist in Scotland.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,

Wajahat Nassar