

PE1731/I

City of Edinburgh council submission of 22 October 2019

- What is your policy on the audio recording of public council meetings?

Audio recording is allowed at the discretion of the Lord Provost or Convener. This is enshrined in our standing orders. We have not had any requests in recent years but pre-2012 before we webcast our meetings we didn't tend to approve requests.

- If your council does not permit audio recordings of public meetings, what is the rationale for this?

Public meetings are recorded by ourselves to be webcast to the internet. All executive committees and full council is recorded. Recently this has been extended to our Integration Joint Board.

- What are considered to be the concerns of allowing members of the public to audio record public council meetings?

We want to keep ownership of the recordings. A worry is that members of the public will chop up or manipulate the sound recordings with easy to access tools and share these online. We also make it very clear in terms of data protection that we are recording data and have a clear retention period.

We already provide audio and video recordings of all meetings and see no additional benefit from allowing members of the public the chance to also do this.

- With regards to the actions being called for in the petition, are there any constraints faced by local authorities on what has been proposed?

Other than the above I see no constraints in terms of practicalities.