



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Public Petitions Committee

Claire Adamson

Via email:

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Dear Claire,

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION [PE1704](#)

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to ensure that an agenda of real and meaningful change for autistic people is pursued by introducing the following targets and outcomes by 2021:

- That every person in Scotland going through an autism diagnostic procedure will be assessed within a calendar year and receive a statutory services assessment from a qualified social worker as an integral part of this process, within twelve months from the date of their initial referral.*
- That children with autism in mainstream schools will have their assessed needs for classroom support met by an ASL assistant with a recognised autism qualification as part of a mandatory registration process for ASL professionals.*
- That young adults with autism will have a statutory right to specialist support from their local authority up to the age of 25.*
- That an Autism Act will be in place within the next 5 years to enshrine specific rights and services for autistic people in our legal system.*

The Public Petitions Committee considered the above petition on 5 September 2019. At this meeting, the Committee agreed to close the petition on the basis that there is limited support for the majority of actions called for in the petition.

In closing the petition, the Committee recognised the significant issues that have been raised through the petition and the subsequent written evidence received from a range of stakeholders. For example, the petitioner is of the view that there is great disparity across Scotland in the nature and quality of autism support and services.

The National Autistic Society Scotland is of the view that too few of the initiatives from the National Autism Strategy have brought about real, lasting change. These views are contrasted with those of local authorities that sympathise with the aims of the petition but are constrained by available resources.

In noting these issues, the Committee agreed to highlight this information to both the Health and Sport Committee and the Education and Skills Committee. It is hoped that this letter may aid and inform any future work of your committee on autism targets and outcomes and/or additional support needs more generally.

The [Official Report](#) of the meeting and the video is available online via the [Parliament's TV Service](#).

Yours sincerely

Johann Lamont MSP
Convener
Public Petitions Committee