



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

5th Meeting, 2021 (Session 5)

Wednesday 24 February 2021

Present:

Maurice Corry
Tom Mason
David Torrance

Johann Lamont (Convener)
Gail Ross (Deputy Convener)

Also present: Alexander Burnett (PE1662), Rhoda Grant and Liam McArthur (PE1804)

The meeting opened at 9.30 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take items 3 and 4 in private.
2. **Consideration of continued petitions:** The Committee considered the following continued petitions—

PE1662: Improve Treatment for Patients with Lyme Disease and Associated Tick-borne Diseases and took evidence from Mairi Gougeon, Minister for Public Health and Sport; Dr Gill Hawkins, Senior Medical Officer Health Protection and Public Health; and Professor Tom Evans, CMO Specialty Adviser in Infectious Diseases, Scottish Government. The Committee agreed to continue this petition and include it in its legacy paper for its successor Committee, along with a suggestion to seek an update from the Scottish Government on any progress made to address the issues raised during the evidence session.

PE1804: Halt Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd's Air Traffic Management Strategy and took evidence from Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity; and Gary Cox, Head of Aviation, Transport Scotland. The Committee agreed to continue this petition and include it in its legacy paper for its successor Committee, along with a suggestion to seek an update from the Scottish Government on the issues of concern raised during the evidence session. The

Committee also agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity.

3. **Review of the Public Petitions system (in private):** The Committee considered a paper on the Review of the Public Petitions system. The Committee agreed to write to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee.
4. **Annual report (in private):** The Committee considered its draft annual report for the parliamentary year from 12 May 2020 to 24 March 2021. The Committee agreed to consider a further draft at a future meeting. The Committee also agreed that consideration of its draft annual report should be taken in private at future meetings.

The meeting closed at 12.23 pm.

Lynn Russell
Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
Room T3.60 The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh
Tel: 0131 348 5186
Email: petitions@parliament.scot