PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

18th Meeting, 2019 (Session 5)

Thursday 10 October 2019

Present:

Maurice Corry  Gail Ross (Deputy Convener)
Alex Rowley (Committee Substitute)  David Torrance
Brian Whittle

Also present: Fulton MacGregor (PE1748)

Apologies were received from Johann Lamont (Convener).

The meeting opened at 9.15 am.

1. **Declaration of interests:** The Convener invited Alex Rowley to declare any relevant interests. Alex Rowley indicated that he had no interests to declare other than those in his register of interests.

2. **Consideration of a continued petition:** The Committee considered the following continued petition—

   PE1600 on Speed Awareness Courses and took evidence from Chief Superintendent Garry McEwan, representing the Multi-Agency Working Group. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government and the Lord Advocate.

3. **Consideration of new petitions:** The Committee considered the following new petitions—

   PE1743 on Amend the law to protect the rights of pre-1989 Scottish Secure Tenants. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government. It also agreed to write to COSLA and First-tier Tribunal for Scotland.

   PE1744 on Psychiatric service dogs in Scotland. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government. It also agreed to write to the Bravehounds charity, Assistance Dogs UK, International Guide Dogs
Federation, Society for Companion Animal Studies, Dogs for Good, Dogs for Depression, Psychiatric Assistance Dogs Foundation and the Mental Health Foundation.

PE1745 on Statutory Right for Families to Request a Fatal Accident Inquiry. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government. It also agreed to write to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and the Law Society of Scotland.

PE1746 on Creation of a Scottish space non-departmental public body. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government. It also agreed to write to local authorities currently involved in Spaceport bids, UK Space Agency, Scottish Enterprise, Space Network Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, UK Industrial Strategy and UK Aerospace Sector Deal.

PE1747 on Adequate funding to support children with additional support needs in all Scottish Schools. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government. It also agreed to write to Education Scotland, COSLA and Enable Scotland.

PE1748 on Provide protection for small communities in Scottish planning policy. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government. It also agreed to write to COSLA, North Lanarkshire Council, the Royal Town Planning Institute, Built Environment Forum Scotland and Scotland’s Towns Partnership.

PE1750 on Independent monitoring of satellite tags fitted to raptors. The Committee agreed to refer the petition to the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee suggesting it be taken into account as part of its ongoing work on wildlife crime.

PE1751 on Create no wild camp zones in Scotland. The Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government. It also agreed to write to National Park Authorities, COSLA, North Coast 500, Mountaineering Scotland, Parkswatch, Ramblers Scotland and the Lake District Park Authority.

Gail Ross declared an interest on the basis that the petitioner is a member of her staff.

PE1752 on Management and time recording systems in the Scottish Government. The Committee agreed to close the petition under Standing Order Rule 15.7 on the basis that the action called for in the petition is considered difficult to achieve in practice.

The meeting closed at 10.44 am.

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