



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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20 November 2020

Dear Requester,

REVIEW OF YOUR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

On 1st November you asked us to review our decision of 30th October in relation to your request for information (2020-652169) of 20th October.

A review has been carried out in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

As a result of this review we have decided to confirm our original decision. Your request is for information about the meeting of the Public Petitions Committee on 3rd September for the purposes of considering Petition PE 1790 on Parental and Familial Alienation. Information about the Committee meeting on 3rd September 2020 is publicly available in the Official Report on the Scottish Parliament website which can be accessed [here](#). You can also access the submissions made to the Committee in respect of Petition PE 1790 on [the petitions webpage](#).

You also ask for information about the legal grounds for closing the petition which we have explained in our reply to your request.

The rules relating to closing petitions are set out in Chapter 15 of the Standing Orders of the Scottish Parliament which can be accessed [here](#). As you will see in terms of Rule 15.7 a committee may close a petition at any time and that the committee shall notify the petitioner that the petition is closed and the reasons for closing it. In this instance the Committee recognises that there is an issue of parental alienation which is understood by both the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament. The Convenor expressed that the Committee are sympathetic to the issues raised in the petition and having considered the position the petition was closed under rule 15.7. The reasons given are that the Committee agreed that the best way to proceed is by training of Child Welfare Reporters to recognise this issue. In terms of which training will be set by regulations and there will be a full public consultation on the criteria in due course.

In replying to your request, we have provided the information that we hold in relation to the consideration of the Petition PE 1790 and the reasons for closing the petition. If, following this decision, you are unhappy with the progress being made in respect of this issue then you can submit a new petition on the same or a substantially similar matter, either on the first sitting day of the new session of Parliament in 2021 or after a period of 1 year from the date when the petition was closed on 3rd September 2020, whichever date is the earlier. Guidance on petitioning the Scottish Parliament can be accessed [here](#).

If, on the outcome of any review, you are still dissatisfied, or if we are unable to resolve any other complaint, then you can contact the Scottish Information Commissioner:

Post: The Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS

Email: www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal

Telephone: 01334 464610

Fax: 01334 464611

Website: www.itspublicknowledge.info

A decision by the Scottish Information Commissioner may be appealed, on a point of law, to the Court of Session.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Turnbull
Head of Information Governance