



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

Pauline McIntyre
Clerk
Education, Children and Young People
Committee

By email only—
ecyp.committee@parliament.scot

Citizen Participation and Public
Petitions Committee
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The Scottish Parliament
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18 June 2024

Dear Pauline,

PE2022: Introduce national safeguarding guidance on how higher education institutions should handle cases of sexual misconduct

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to introduce national safeguarding guidance for dealing with cases of sexual misconduct in higher education institutions, which includes clearly defined measures to ensure campus safety where a convicted sex offender, or someone awaiting trial for a serious sexual offence, is enrolled at an institution.

The Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee considered the above petition at its meeting on Wednesday 12 June 2024. At that meeting, the Committee agreed to close the above petition on the basis that work is underway to develop a consistent, nationwide approach to the collection of data relating to relevant criminal convictions and criminal charges from students, with Universities Scotland working closely with stakeholders in the Scottish Government's Equally Safe in Colleges and Universities Core Leadership Group to progress this work.

In closing the petition, the Committee also agreed to write to the Education, Children and Young People Committee to draw its attention to the petition and ask that the evidence the CPPP Committee has gathered be taken into consideration as part ECYP Committee's work looking at the Equally Safe strategy.

As part of the Committee's consideration, Members examined written evidence from:

- [Scottish Government](#)
- [Rape Crisis Scotland](#)

- [Universities Scotland](#)
- [Emily Test](#)
- [Victim Support Scotland](#)
- [Scottish Women's Aid.](#)

The Committee also agreed to write to the Minister for Higher and Further Education, highlighting the evidence it has gathered and asking the Minister to provide an update on the progress to develop a consistent approach to data collection and safeguarding that will help protect students.

[The Official Report of the meeting has been published](#) and [a recording of the meeting is available to view online.](#)

Should you have any queries on any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact petitions.committee@parliament.scot.

Yours sincerely,

Clerks to the Committee