



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Sandra Docherty  
Petitioner

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice  
Committee  
T2.60

*Via email only*

The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

[EHRCJ.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:EHRCJ.committee@parliament.scot)

30 April 2024

Dear Sandra,

**CONSIDERATION OF PETITION: PE1787 - The Use of Makaton Sign Language in the Legal System**

The Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee considered your petition at its meeting on Tuesday 23 April.

At that meeting, the Committee agreed to close your petition on the basis that there are a number of measures in place to make communication as accessible as possible and there may be further opportunities for you to highlight consideration of Makaton in future legislation including the Scottish Human Rights Bill.

The [Official Report](#) (a reliable written record of what is said in public meetings) and a [recording of the meeting](#) are both available on our website and can be accessed via the hyperlinks.

In reaching its decision, the Committee took into account the [most recent submission](#) from the Scottish Government (16 April 2024) which identifies the range of policies, practices and duties that are in place to make communications as accessible as possible.

That submission also refers to forthcoming legislation, including the Human Rights Bill for Scotland and a proposed Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill.

The Committee is currently seeking views on what is known as a Member's Bill, which has been brought forward by Jeremy Balfour MSP. That Bill is called the Disability Commissioner (Scotland) Bill and its aim is to establish a Disability Commissioner whose role it would be to advocate for people at a

national level Under the proposals, the Disability Commissioner would be required to encourage the involvement of disabled people in the Commissioner's work and to use inclusive communication to enable the fullest involvement.

You can find more information about the Bill and, if you wish to, answer our questions about the Bill at the following link:

[Disability Commissioner \(Scotland\) Bill - Scottish Parliament - Citizen Space](#)

The Committee would welcome feedback on your experience of the petitions process. I attach a feedback form and would be grateful if this could be returned to the Committee clerks using the email address above.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank you for petitioning the Scottish Parliament and for raising awareness of Makaton.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen Adam', written in a cursive style.

Karen Adam MSP  
Convener  
Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

As a petitioner, we would be interested to hear your views on the process and the way in which your petition was dealt with. The questionnaire is an anonymous one, should only take a few minutes to complete and will provide valuable feedback.

We very much appreciate you taking the time to provide us with your views.

*The Parliamentary process*

1. **Did you receive the right amount of help from the clerks throughout the process?**  
[1: yes at all times – 5: not at all]

1

2

3

4

5

2. **Were you kept informed throughout the process?**  
[1: yes, at all times – 5: no, not at all]

1

2

3

4

5

*Your expectations*

3. **Thinking about the process that your petition went through, how fairly do you think your petition was dealt with?**

4. **What did you hope to achieve by submitting your petition?**

**5. How do you feel about the outcomes?**

*Overall*

**6. What do you think were the best things about the petitions system?**

Please enter your comments here:

**7. How would you like to see the system improved?**

Any comments that you make may be used anonymously in publications, on the website or any other public format used by the Scottish Parliament. **If you would prefer not to have any of your comments reproduced in any way please indicate this clearly by ticking this box.**

**THANK YOU FOR TAKING TIME TO COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE.** Please return to:  
Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee, [petitions@parliament.scot](mailto:petitions@parliament.scot) or by post to: Room T3-40, Scottish  
Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP.