



House of Commons
Petitions Committee

Formal Minutes of the Committee

Session 2015–16

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Formal Minutes of the Petitions Committee, Session 2015–16

TUESDAY 21 July 2015

Members present:

Helen Jones, in the Chair

David Mackintosh	Justin Madders
Kate Osamor	Paul Scully

1. Declaration of interests

Members declared their interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992. (*For details of declarations of interests, see Appendix.*)

2. Memorandum of Understanding between the Petitions Committee and the Leader of the House

Ordered, That the Chair of the Petitions Committee and the Leader of the House to sign the Memorandum of understanding.

3. Demonstration of the new e-petitions website

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Committee working methods

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into its working methods.

Resolved, That the Committee hold a launch event to promote the petitions system to the public.

5. Working practices

Resolved, That the public be admitted during the examination of witnesses, unless the Committee orders otherwise.

Resolved, That witnesses who submit written evidence to the Committee are authorised to publish it on their own account in accordance with Standing Order No. 135, subject always to the discretion of the Chair or where the Committee orders otherwise.

5. Committee meetings

Resolved, That the Committee will meet on Tuesdays at 2.00 p.m.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 8 September at 2.00pm]

TUESDAY 8 September 2015

Members present:

Helen Jones, in the Chair

Ian Blackford	Steve Double
Oliver Dowden	Paul Flynn
Ben Howlett	David Mackintosh
Justin Madders	Kate Osamor
Paul Scully	

1. Committee working methods

Resolved, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication on the Internet:

1. Written evidence submitted by Dr Andy Williamson (CWM0002)

2. Consideration of e-petitions

The Committee considered the following e-petitions with over 100,000 signatures:

1. To debate a vote of no confidence in Health Secretary the Right Hon Jeremy Hunt.

Resolved, That there be a debate on the motion "That this House has considered an e-petition relating to contracts and conditions in the NHS" on Monday 14 September, led by Helen Jones MP.

2. Make the production, sale and use of cannabis legal.

Resolved, That there be a debate on the motion "That this House has considered an e-petition relating to making production, sale and use of cannabis legal" on Monday 12 October, led by Paul Flynn MP.

3. Accept more asylum seekers and increase support for refugee immigrants in the UK.

Resolved, That a debate not be scheduled by the Committee as this matter already has been debated in the House of Commons.

4. Benjamin Netanyahu to be arrested for war crimes when he arrives in London.

Resolved, That a debate not to be scheduled by the Committee as the request made by the petition was something that, the UK Government had said in its Government response that it was not able to do under UK and International Law, it decided not to take any further action.

The Committee considered the following petitions with over 10,000 signatures:

5. Scrap Fracking UK Wide & Invest in Green Energy.
6. Introduce mental health education to the national curriculum.

Resolved, That the Committee would inform petitioners about the Youth Select Committee inquiry.

7. To debate a vote of no confidence DWP secretary Iain Duncan Smith.
8. A vote of no confidence in the Prime Minister David Cameron. Calais Crisis.
9. Hold public inquiry into West Ham & LLDC deal for rental of Olympic Stadium.

3. Consideration of public petitions with Government observations

The Committee considered the following public petitions which had received Government observations in the current Parliament.

1. Closure of fire stations in South Staffordshire
2. Car insurance cost
3. Protection of green spaces at Capstone Valley and areas around Otterham Quay Lane (Gillingham and Rainham)

4. Committee launch event

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Any other business

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 15 September at 2.00pm]

TUESDAY 15 September 2015

Members present:

Helen Jones, in the Chair

Steve Double	Oliver Dowden
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Paul Flynn	Ben Howlett
David Mackintosh	Justin Madders
Paul Scully	

1. Committee working methods

Resolved, That the following written evidence to be reported to the House for publication on the Internet:

1. Written evidence submitted by OtisLaw2015 (CWM003)

2. Consideration of e-petitions

The Committee considered the following petitions with over 100,000 signatures:

1. Introduce a tax on sugary drinks in UK to improve our children's health

Resolved, That the

2. Stop allowing immigrants to the UK

Resolved, That there be a debate on the motion "That this House has considered an e-petition" relating to immigration" by the Committee.

Ordered, That Paul Scully MP to lead the debate.

The Committee considered the following petitions with over 10,000 signatures:

3. Recall Parliament if a petition reaches 100,000 signatures-it's what we pay for
4. Fund more research into brain tumours, the biggest cancer killer of the 40s

Ordered, That the Chair of Committee would write a letter to the Chair of the Health Committee about its plans on this matter.

3. Consideration of public petitions with Government observations

The Committee considered the following public petitions which had received Government observations in the current Parliament.

1. Chemotherapy drug Abraxane

4. Future programme: Committee visits

Ordered, That the Committee would visit the German Bundestag to learn more about their petitioning system.

5. Any other business

The Committee noted a complaint from The Whitehouse Consultancy regarding the e-petition 'Ban the use of Aspartame'.

The Committee decided not to uphold the complaint.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 13 October at 2.00pm]

TUESDAY 13 October 2015

Members present:

Helen Jones, in the Chair

Steve Double	Oliver Dowden
Paul Flynn	Ben Howlett
David Mackintosh	Kate Osamor

1) Committee working methods

Resolved, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication on the Internet:

1. House of Commons Information Office (CWM05)
2. Parliament Outreach and Engagement Group (CWM06)
3. Care2 (CWM07)
4. Ms Catherine Bochel (CWM08)
5. Mr Roger Gartland (CWM09)
6. Sameen Farouk (CWM10)
7. Change.org (CWM11)
8. Professor Cristina Leston-Bandeira (CWM12)
9. Institute for Government (CWM13)

2) Correspondence with other Committee

Resolved, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication on the Internet:

1. Letter from the Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee
2. The Committee took note of the following correspondence:
3. Letter from the Chair of the Youth Select Committee

4. Letter from the Chair of the Health Committee

3) Consideration of e-petition

The Committee considered the following petition with over 100,000 signatures:

- a. Make an allowance for up to 2 weeks term time leave from school for holiday

Resolved, That there be a debate on the motion “That this House has considered an e-petition relating to term-time leave from school for holiday” by the Committee.

Ordered, That Steve Double MP to lead the debate.

The Committee considered the following petitions with over 10,000 signatures:

2. Extend Harvey's Mandate To All Council Roads ensuring all animals are scanned
3. Allow transgender people to self-define their legal gender

The Committee noted that as the result of this petition, the creator was invited to give oral evidence to the Woman and Equalities Committee, as part of its inquiry into transgender equality.

4. Remove the 1% public sector pay cap. Teachers, nurses etc deserve a pay rise too

The Committee noted that this issue had been debated as part of the Budget debates in March and July 2015.

5. Abraxane MUST be put back on CDF list to improve survival of pancreatic cancer
6. Ban driven grouse shooting
7. David Cameron to take serious diplomatic action against commercial whaling
8. DECC to urgently review the current approach to the solar feed in tariff
9. Disallow puppy farms in the UK in which beagles are bred for animal testing
10. Hold a referendum on TTIP before we give away our sovereignty

The Committee noted that the House of Lords European Union Committee and the House of Commons Business Innovation and Skills; and European Scrutiny Committees had all recently done work related to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

11. Reconsider the new Dividend Tax for small businesses

The Committee noted that this issue had been debated as part of the Budget debate and would be considered as part of the Finance Bill.

12. Ban schools from serving halal meat to children without parents' consent
13. Keep Universal Infant Free School Meals in schools in England

14. Ban the Burkha on the grounds of security
15. Keep Universal Infant Free School Meals in schools in England
16. Ban the Burkha on the grounds of security
17. Prohibit the building of mosques in the UK
18. Don't kill our bees! Immediately halt the use of Neonicotinoids on crops

The Committee noted a similar petition on the 38 Degrees petition site which had over 575,000 signatures: "Keep the ban on bee-killing pesticides. Please don't allow any exemptions to the European ban on bee-killing pesticides (known as neonicotinoids). Our bees are too important."

19. Introduce a tax on sugary drinks in the UK to improve our children's health

The Committee noted the response received from the Health Committee which said that its inquiry into the Government's policy priorities for its childhood obesity strategy would include the consideration of the case for a sugary drinks tax.

The Committee noted that the petition creator, Jamie Oliver, had been invited to give oral evidence to the Health Committee on Monday 20 October.

4) Consideration of public petitions with Government observations

The Committee considered the following public petitions which had received Government observations in the current Parliament:

1. Pedestrian access at White Cross (Hallatrow)
2. The Committee noted this petition.

5) Consideration of request to remove an e-petition

Resolved, That the petition would not be removed from the website by the Committee.

Ordered, That the Chair would write to the petitioner and suggest that his name be removed and replaced by the name of somebody else who supported the petition.

6) Future Programme

Resolved, That the Committee to inquire into the petition "Fund more research into brain tumours, the biggest cancer killer of under-40s", and agreed a programme of one informal roundtable meeting and two oral evidence sessions in November with public sessions starting at 2.30pm.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 12 October at 2.00pm]

TUESDAY 13 October 2015

Members present:

Helen Jones, in the Chair

Steve Double	Oliver Dowden
Paul Flynn	Ben Howlett
David Mackintosh	Kate Osamor
Paul Scully	

1) Consideration of e-petitions

The Committee considered the following petitions with over 10,000 signatures:

1. Keep A&E at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Ordered, That the Committee would write to Daniel Kawczynski, MP for Shrewsbury and Atcham to draw his attention to this matter.

2. We need Jeremy Hunt MP to get NHS England to fund Vimizin for Morquio Sufferers.

Ordered, That the Committee would write to the Government, asking to be informed when the final NICE guidance report referred to in its response is published, so that it can inform the petitioners.

3. The Cancer Drug Fund (CDF) is not fit for purpose and needs to be replaced.

The Committee noted that there was a debate on the availability of cancer drugs in Westminster Hall on 20 October on Availability of cancer drugs, to which this e-petition had been "tagged".

4. The DDRB's proposals to change Junior Doctor's contracts CANNOT go ahead.

The Committee noted that this issue had been debated as part of the debate on contracts and conditions in the NHS in Westminster Hall on 14 September 2015, and that the Health Committee was currently undertaking an inquiry into primary care.

2) Consideration of public petitions with Government observations

The Committee considered the following public petitions which had received Government observations in the current Parliament.

1. Pardon for Dic Penderyn
2. Ending violence against children
3. The Committee noted these petitions.

3) Committee working methods

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That a response deadline to be introduced for Departments whom meant to give a Government response.

Ordered, That the Chair of the Committee would write to the Leader of the House.

4) Future programme

Ordered, That the Committee would accept evidence online about the personal experiences of those affected by the funding for research on brain tumours.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 27 October at 2.00pm]

TUESDAY 27 October 2015

Members present:

Helen Jones, in the Chair

Steve Double	Paul Flynn
Ben Howlett	David Mackintosh

1) Consideration of e-petitions

The Committee considered the following petitions with more than 10,000 signatures.

1. Free Sergeant Alexander Blackman

The Committee noted that there had been a House of Commons Westminster Hall debate on this issue on 16 September 2015.

2. Create a compassionate Euro-wide policy to deal with refugee migrants in Calais

The Committee noted that this subject had been debated in the House of Commons in September on a number of occasions.

Ordered, That petitioners would be informed about these debates.

2) Consideration of public petitions with Government observations

The Committee considered the following public petitions which had received Government observations in the current Parliament.

1. HS2 Proposed Golborne Connection

The Chair declared an interest, as the proposed route went through her constituency and her home village. The Committee noted that the High Speed Rail Bill Committee was continuing to look at this subject.

3) Committee working methods

Ordered, That an agreed letter from the Chair would be sent to the Leader of the House about putting forward a deadline for responses from the Government and setting out other guidance to help departments provide effective responses.

4) Future programme

Resolved, That the Committee will not meet on 10th November.

5) Any other business

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 3rd November at 2.00pm

TUESDAY 3rd November 2015

Members present:

Helen Jones, in the Chair

Steve Double	Oliver Dowden
Paul Flynn	Ben Howlett
David Mackintosh	Kate Osamor
Paul Scully	

1) Consideration of e-Petitions

The Committee considered the following petitions with 10,000 signatures.

1. Ex service personnel should be given priority for local authority Housing
2. Assess full impact of all cuts to support & social care for disabled people

Ordered, That the Committee would write to the Institute for Fiscal Studies to ask about the statement, made in the petition, that the IFS had said that it would

be possible to produce an impact assessment of the kind requested by the petition.

2) Funding for research into brain tumours (oral evidence)

The Committee heard evidence from the following witnesses:

- Maria Lester (petition creator),
- Peter and Elizabeth Realf (Maria's parents)
- Sue Farrington Smith, Chief Executive, Brain Tumour Research;
- Neil Meemaduma, Research Grants Manager, Children with Cancer;
- Sarah Mee, Head of Policy and Campaigns, The Brain Tumour Charity;
- Emma Greenwood, Head of Policy Development, Cancer Research UK.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 17th November at 2.00pm]

TUESDAY 17th November 2015

Members present:

Helen Jones, in the Chair

Steve Double	Oliver Dowden
Paul Flynn	Ben Howlett
David Mackintosh	

1) Consideration of e-petitions

The Committee considered the following petitions with over 100,000 signatures.

1. Vote no confidence in David Cameron

The Committee did not schedule a debate on this petition, because it does not have the power to schedule debates on motions of no confidence.

Resolved, That a debate would not be scheduled on this matter as the Committee does not have the power to schedule debates on motions of no confidence.

2. Introduce a tax on sugary drinks in the UK to improve our children's health

Resolved, That there be a debate on the motion on Monday 30 November led by Helen Jones.

The Committee considered the following petitions with over 10,000 signatures.

3. Cut foreign aid. Why should foreign aid be exempt from austerity cuts?

The Committee noted that the House of Commons would have an opportunity to debate the ring-fencing of foreign aid budgets at the forthcoming Autumn Statement and again at the Budget. The Committee decided to draw petitioners' attention to debates on this issue.

4. Restrict the use of fireworks to reduce stress and fear in animals and pets
 5. Make fair transitional state pension arrangements for 1950's
- Helen Jones MP declared an interest.

The Committee decided to write to the Work and Pensions Committee to ask that Committee to address the issue in its inquiry into understanding the State Pension. It also decided to write to the Women and Equalities Committee in the context of its inquiry into the gender pay gap.

6. We demand the British Government Reschedule Cannabis
7. End the cuts to Merseyside Police

The Committee decided to draw the attention of petitioners to recent select committee work and Parliamentary debates on this issue.

8. KEEP AIRFIELDS GREENFIELDS. Review Airfield Classification as Brownfield Sites

The Committee decided to draw the attention of petitioners to the debates on Housing and Planning Bill, which is currently going through the House.

9. To give veterans that have lost limbs the service they are promised and deserve
10. Don't kill our bees! Immediately halt the use of Neonicotinoids on crops.

Resolved, **That there be a debate on the motion** on Monday 7 December.

2) Petitions for decision by Committee

The Committee discussed the following petitions.

1. Parliament to debate resignation of Speaker Bercow for self-evident bias.

Ordered, That the petition be accepted and published on the website.

2. Do not allow Jeremy Corbyn access to sensitive government security briefings.

Ordered, That the petition be accepted and published on the website.

3. investigation into Jeremy Corbyns possible links to terrorist organisations

Ordered, That the petition should not be published.

4. Christians only to hold positions of power in UK Politics, Military & Police.

Ordered, That the petition should not be published.

5. Compulsory medical & criminal activity checks for Middle East & African migrants.

Ordered, That the petition should not be published.

3) Signatures on e-petitions

The Committee considered this matter.

4) Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

5) Funding for research into brain tumours

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 24th November at 2.00pm]

TUESDAY 24th November 2015

Members present:

Helen Jones, in the Chair

Steve Double	Jim Dowd
Oliver Dowden	Paul Flynn
Ben Howlett	David Mackintosh

1) Funding for research into brain tumours

Resolved, that the following written evidence to be reported to the House for publication.

- Cancer Research UK (BTR0003)

2) Deadlines for Government responses (Committee working methods)

Resolved, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication on the Internet:

- Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP (CWM0016)

3) Correspondence

Resolved, That the following correspondence to be reported to the House for publication.

- Letter from the Director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies

4) Consideration of e-Petitions

The Committee considered the following petition with over 100,000 signatures.

1. Stop all immigration and close the UK borders until ISIS is defeated

Resolved, That a debate not to be scheduled on this e-petition because the issues raised in it had recently been debated and were due to be debated again.

The Committee considered the following petitions with over 10,000 signatures.

2. Save Our Homecare. More funding to support people at home & reward careworkers
3. Save Vulcan XH558. Persuade technical authorities to reconsider ending support

The Committee also decided to draw the petitioners' attention to the debate on 21 July 2015 about Vulcan XH558.

4. Introduce LGBT sex education as a compulsory part of the school curriculum
5. Theresa May to go on patrol with a police force for a full set of night shifts

The Committee noted that the Government response did not fully address the matter raised in the petition. It decided to write to the Home Office to ask for a response that addressed the request made in the petition.

6. Don't kill our bees! Immediately halt the use of Neonicotinoids on crops

5) Consideration of petitions with Government observations

The Committee considered the following public petitions which had received Government observations in the current Parliament.

- Muslim burial services in Birmingham
- Barclays Bank branch on Woodhill (Leicester)
- The Committee noted these petitions.

6) Funding for research into brain tumours (oral evidence)

The Committee heard evidence from the following witnesses:

- Professor Garth Cruickshank, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust
- Professor Geoff Pilkington, University of Portsmouth
- Professor Tracy Warr, Brain Tumour Research Centre, University of Wolverhampton
- Dr Karen Kennedy, Director, National Cancer Research Institute.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 1 December at 2.00pm]

TUESDAY 1 December 2015

Members present:

Helen Jones, in the Chair

Ian Blackford	Jim Dowd
Paul Flynn	Paul Scully

1) Correspondence

The Committee considered this matter.

2) Consideration of e-Petitions

The Committee considered the following petition with over 100,000 signatures.

1. Keep the NHS Bursary

Resolved, That the petition be debated on Monday 11 January 2016, led by Paul Scully MP.

The Committee considered the following petitions with over 10,000 signatures.

2. Fight the European Commission on the ridiculous regulations of e-cigarettes.
3. Allow parents over age of 65 to join British Citizens, as adult dependents
4. Allow British families to stay together by removing minimum income requirements
5. The Government must ensure Bedfordshire Police is adequately funded
The Committee decided to draw the attention of petitioners to the announcement about police budgets made in the Spending Review on 25 November.
6. To Keep Britain's Borders Open
7. Stop all immigration and close the UK borders until ISIS is defeated

3) Future programme

Resolved, That the Committee would not meet on Tuesday 15 December.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 8 December at 2.00pm]

TUESDAY 8 December 2015

Members present:

Helen Jones, in the Chair

Ian Blackford	Jim Dowd
Paul Flynn	Ben Howlett
David Mackintosh	Paul Scully

1) Consideration of e-Petitions

The Committee considered the following petitions with over 100,000 signatures.

1. Vote no on military action in Syria against IS in response to the Paris attacks

Resolved, That a debate would not be scheduled as this matter already been debated.

2. No UK airstrikes on Syria

Resolved, That a debate would not be scheduled as this matter already been debated.

The Committee considered the following petitions with 10,000 signatures.

3. Refuse asylum seekers & remove support for so called refugee migrants in the UK
4. Recognise Both Crohns Disease & Ulcerative Colitis As A Disability
5. Introduce minimum prices that milk buyers purchase their milk for from Farmers

The Committee noted that the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee was currently conducting an inquiry into farmgate prices and agreed to inform petitioners about the inquiry and to draw the attention of the EFRA Committee to the petition.

6. Ban the sale of fireworks to the public and introduce a licensing system

2) Petitions for decision by Committee

The Committee considered the following petitions.

1. Introduce a 5 year compulsory national service for all migrants and refugees

Ordered, That this petition should not be published.

2. Those who vote for war should be on the front line of that war, including the PM.

Ordered, That this petition should not be published.

3. Block Donald J Trump for UK entry

Ordered, That this petition should be accepted, provided that it was edited to remove material which could be defamatory.

3) Funding for research into brain tumours

Resolved, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication on the Internet:

- Brain Tumour Research (BTR0004)

4) Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

5) Any other business

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 5 January at 2.00pm]

TUESDAY 5 January 2016

Members present:

Helen Jones, in the Chair

Ian Blackford	Steve Double
Oliver Dowden	Paul Flynn
Ben Howlett	David Mackintosh

Paul Scully	
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1) Funding for research into brain tumours

Resolved, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication on the Internet:

1. Professor Geoff Pilkington (BTR0005)
2. National Cancer Research Institute (BTR0006)
3. National Institute for Health Research (BTR0007)

2) Consideration of e-Petitions

The Committee considered the following petitions with over 100,000 signatures.

1. Block Donald J Trump from UK entry

Resolved, That a debate to be scheduled on this petition on Monday 18 January, led by Paul Flynn.

2. Make fair transitional state pension arrangements for 1950's women

The Committee noted that the Backbench Business Committee had scheduled a debate on the subject of the petition in the Chamber on Thursday 7 January.

3. Scrap plans forcing self employed & small business to do 4 tax returns yearly
4. Make the setting up of a traveller pitch without permission illegal

The Committee noted that there had been a debate in Westminster Hall on 10 June 2015 on some of the issues raised in this petition.

The Committee considered the following petitions with over 10,000 signatures.

5. Arrest Tony Blair for war crimes in the middle east and misleading the public
6. Reform the rules on filibustering or 'talking a bill to death'
7. Stop pay caps for agency nurses and pay freezes for NHS nurses
8. Reverse the decision to allow "thousands" of Syrian migrants into the UK
9. Make it illegal for MPs to own shares in a company with gov/nhs/police contracts
10. Force close Retailers on Boxing day! Greed keeps many having to go to work!
11. Statutory regulate the profession of sports therapy, as recommended by the HPC
12. Keep the small claims track limit for personal injury claims at £1,000.00
13. Stop all benefits to illegal immigrants completely
14. Protect neighbourhood policing
15. Don't ban Trump from the United Kingdom

Resolved, That this petition should be debated on Monday 18 January together with the petition calling for Trump to be banned.

16. Protect BBC music services from cuts during charter renewal
17. Abolish the TV licence

3) Consideration of public petitions with Government observations

The Committee considered the following public petitions which had received Government observations in the current Parliament.

1. Parking restrictions in Scunthorpe
2. Greenbelt land in Morecambe and Lunesdale
3. Anti-social behaviour in Rushey Fields Park
4. Wheelchair access to railway stations
5. Treatment of West African Institute for Trypanosomiasis Research personnel in Nigeria

4) Funding for brain tumour research

The Committee considered this matter.

5) Fraudulent signatures

The Committee considered this matter.

6) Any other business

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 12 January at 2.00pm]

TUESDAY 12 January 2016

Members present:

Helen Jones, in the Chair

Ian Blackford	Oliver Dowden
David Mackintosh	Paul Scully

1) Consideration of e-Petitions

The Committee considered the following petitions with over 100,000 signatures.

1. Make fair transitional state pension arrangements for 1950's women

Resolved, That a debate to be scheduled on this petition on 1 February 2016, led by Helen Jones MP.

2. Scrap plans forcing self employed & small business to do 4 tax returns yearly

Resolved, That a debate to be scheduled on this petition on 25 January, led by Oliver Dowden MP.

The Committee considered the following petitions with over 10,000 signatures.

3. An independent investigation into the new layout at Dartford river crossing
4. Department for Education: Don't scrap GCSE and A level ICT
5. Give legal protection to the professional title 'veterinary nurse'
6. Ban Breed Specific Legislation
7. Vote no confidence in David Cameron

2) Petitions for decision by Committee

The Committee considered the following petitions.

1. Debate the feasibility of establishing a Caliphate by referendum

Ordered, That this petition should not be published.

2. Police should be armed with tasers to protect their lives in radicalised areas.

Ordered, That this petition should not be accepted.

3) Consideration of public petitions with Government observations

The Committee considered the following public petitions which had received Government observations in the current Parliament.

1. Climate change
2. Overseas doctors and nurses
3. Realignment of Diddington Lane in Hampton-in-Arden

4) Government responses

Ordered, That the Chair would write to the Leader of the House to draw his attention to a number of responses which were overdue.

5) Future programme

Resolved, That the Committee would not hold a public engagement event for the debate on Donald Trump.

Resolved, That the public engagement for the debate on tax returns should be online.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 19 January at 2.00pm]

TUESDAY 19 January 2016

Members present:

Helen Jones, in the Chair

Ian Blackford	Steve Double
Jim Dowd	Paul Flynn
Ben Howlett	David Mackintosh
Paul Scully	

1) Consideration of e-Petitions

The Committee considered the following petitions with over 10,000 signatures.

1. Introduce Compulsory Scanning for microchips by vets, rescues and authorities
2. Ban the use of plastic microbeads in all cosmetic products sold in the UK
3. To change the name the UK Government uses for IS, ISIS and ISIL to DAESH
4. No UK airstrikes on Syria
5. Vote no on military action in Syria against IS in response to the Paris attacks

2) Consideration of public petitions with Government observations

The Committee considered the following public petition which had received Government observations in the current Parliament.

1. Torquay Magistrates' Court

3) Complaint received

Resolved, That the complaint received about the petition “Ban toxic lead ammunition” should not be upheld.

4) Academic study of the Committee

Ordered, That the a proposal for academic study of the Petitions Committee by Professor Cristina Leston-Bandeira would be accepted on the basis that the recommendations made would be put before the Committee prior to publication.

The Committee considered a note by Professor Cristina Leston-Bandeira, Professor of Politics at the University of Leeds, on a proposal for academic study of the Committee. The Committee agreed to accept the proposal on the basis that the recommendations made would be put before the Committee prior to publication.

5) Funding for brain tumour research

The Committee considered this matter.

6) Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 26 January at 2.00pm]

TUESDAY 26 January 2016

Members present:

Helen Jones, in the Chair

Steve Double	Ben Howlett
David Mackintosh	

1) Consideration of e-Petitions

The Committee considered the following petition with over 100,000 signatures.

1. Prevent the scrapping of the maintenance grant

Resolved, That a debate would not be scheduled as this matter has already been debated on 19 January.

The Committee considered the following petitions with over 10,000 signatures.

2. Keep all lead ammunition
3. We demand GPs only decide who is fit to go back to work, not the DWP!
4. Government to abandon all ideas of trying to ban strong encryption
5. Stop holiday companies and airlines putting prices up during school holidays

6. The decision to water down the recent European decision on the bass stocks
7. Legalise Medicinal Cannabis
8. Investigate UK government arms sales to Saudi Arabia and Qatar used by ISIS
9. STOP CAMERON spending British taxpayers' money on Pro-EU Referendum leaflets
10. Abolish the AFPRB and give the military a truly independent body to award pay
11. Issue all ex-service personnel with an ID card to accompany the Veterans Badge
12. Introduce Compulsory Scanning for microchips by vets, rescues and authorities.

2) Consideration of public petitions with Government observations

The Committee considered the following public petitions which had received Government observations in the current Parliament.

1. Humanitarian situation in Yemen
2. Humanitarian situation in Yemen
3. Reopening of Barlaston Railway Station

3) Consideration of e-petitions which have closed

The Committee considered a list of petitions which have closed between 20-22 January.

4) Petitions for decision by the Committee

The Committee considered the following petitions.

1. I want pedophiles and serious sex offenders to be castrated or lobotomized

Resolved, That this petition should not be published.

2. Block anyone from entering the UK whose religion involves deifying a terrorist.

Resolved, That this petition should not be published.

5) Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 9 February at 2.00pm]

TUESDAY 9 February 2016

Members present:

Helen Jones, in the Chair

Steve Double	Oliver Dowden
Paul Flynn	Ben Howlett
Paul Scully	

1) Consideration of e-Petitions

The Committee considered the following petitions with over 10,000 signatures.

1. Free childcare for 2 year olds to include parents who are both working full time.
2. Make it a criminal offence for a mother to deny a father contact with his child
3. Remove the rail franchise from South Eastern
4. Scrap the £35k threshold for non-EU citizens settling in the UK
5. Prevent the closure of Huddersfield A&E department
6. Stop benefits to more than one wife in the UK
7. The Iraq Historic Allegations Team must be stopped as it is a national scandal
8. Recognise Taiwan as a country

2) Consideration of public petitions with Government observations

The Committee considered the following public petitions which had received Government observations in the current Parliament.

1. Mandatory reporting of child abuse
2. Treatment of asylum seekers
3. Impact of Hinckley Connection project on the Wells constituency

3) Consideration of e-petitions which have closed

The Committee considered a list of petitions which have closed between 30 January and 3 February.

4) Petitions for decision by the Committee

The Committee considered the following petitions.

1. Cut benefits for unemployed obese people, they cost billions and don't contribute

Resolved, That this petition should not be published.

2. Legalise minimal violent acts on British roads.

Resolved, That this petition should not be published.

5) Petition removed from the site in exceptional circumstances

Resolved, That the petition 110743 should be removed from the website, on the grounds that the petitioner's family could be danger as a result of the petition.

6) Any other business

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 23 February at 2.00pm]

TUESDAY 9 February 2016

Members present:

Helen Jones, in the Chair

Steve Double	Oliver Dowden
Paul Flynn	Ben Howlett
David Mackintosh	Paul Scully

1) Intimidation of petitioners

Ordered, That the Clerk of the Committee should prepare a text to appear on the petitions website, to inform petitioners that a petition, once published on the site, can only be withdrawn with the permission of the Committee.

2) Correspondence

Resolved, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication on the Internet:

1. Letter from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport.

3) Consideration of e-petitions

The Committee considered the following petitions with over 100,000 signatures.

1. Give the Meningitis B vaccine to ALL children, not just newborn babies

Resolved, That the Committee would take evidence from affected families and relevant medical experts before scheduling a debate.

2. Scrap the £35k threshold for non-EU citizens settling in the UK

Resolved, That a debate to be scheduled on this petition on Monday 7 March, led by Paul Scully.

3. The DDRB's proposals to change Junior Doctor's contracts CANNOT go ahead

The Committee decided to consider this petition again on its next meeting on 1 March.

4. Consider a vote of No Confidence in Jeremy Hunt, Health Secretary

The Committee decided to consider this petition again on its next meeting on 1 March.

5. Jeremy Hunt to resume meaningful contract negotiations with the BMA

The Committee decided to consider this petition again on its next meeting on 1 March.

The Committee considered the following petitions with over 10,000 signatures.

6. Mandatory prison time 5 years, for pet theft. Reclassify pets from 'chattel'
7. Reverse the decision to allowing fracking under our national parks
8. Remove Church of England Bishops from the House of Lords
9. Health Secretary to have Television Debate with Junior Doctors about Contract
10. Abolish road tax on Motorcycles
11. Include expressive arts subjects in the Ebacc
12. Abandon plans to force women to prove they were raped before they get benefits
13. Ban toxic lead ammunition
14. Reinstate The 25 Year Rolling Road Tax Exemption

4) Consideration of public petitions with Government observations

The Committee considered the following public petitions which had received Government observations in the current Parliament.

1. Park and ride scheme on Bathampton Meadows

5) Consideration of responses which are more than 28 days late

Ordered, That the Committee would write to the Leader of the House about the following petitions which have not received a Government response within the agreed timeframe.

1. Make planting trees a priority to reduce flooding by improving soil and drainage
2. Legislate to introduce minimum sentences for assaulting police officers
3. Reinstate full visa service at the British High Commission in Dhaka, Bangladesh

6) Consideration of e-petitions which have closed

The Committee considered a list of petitions which have closed between 6-19 February.

7) Petitions for decision by Committee

The Committee considered the following petitions.

1. Deny all refugees who are single and of military age entry to the UK and Europe.

Resolved, That this petitions should not be published.

8) Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 1 March at 2.00pm]

TUESDAY 1 March 2016

Members present:

Helen Jones, in the Chair

Steve Double	Oliver Dowden
Paul Flynn	David Mackintosh
Paul Scully	

1) Funding for research into brain tumours

Resolved, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication on the Internet:

1. Celia and Melvin Ridley

Resolved, That the report to be reported to the House and published at 00.01 am on Monday 14 March.

Resolved, that embargoed copies would be made available on Friday 11 March and that a launch event would take place at 3.30pm. on 14 March in Westminster Hall.

2) Petition on availability of meningitis B vaccine

Resolved, That there would be two evidence sessions on 15 and 22 March and that the Committee would work together with the Health Committee on these evidence sessions.

3) Consideration of e-petitions

The Committee considered the following petitions with over 100,000 signatures.

1. Jeremy Hunt to resume meaningful contract negotiations with the BMA

Resolved, That there be a debate on the motion "That this House has considered e-petition 121262 relating to contract negotiations with the BMA", on **Monday 21 March**.

2. Consider a vote of No Confidence in Jeremy Hunt, Health Secretary

Resolved, that a debate should not be scheduled as the Committee does not have the power to schedule debates on motions of no confidence and the petition does not contain a specific request for action policy.

3. The DDRB's proposals to change Junior Doctor's contracts CANNOT go ahead.

Resolved, That a debate should not be scheduled as this matter has already been debated in the Parliament.

The Committee considered the following petitions with over 10,000 signatures.

4. SAVE OUR NHS STOP PRIVATISATION SAVE EALING HOSPITAL Publicly Funded & Provided
5. Parliament to sit on Saturdays which should be a "normal working day" for MPs.
6. Reinstate full visa service at the British High Commission in Dhaka, Bangladesh
7. Ask Civil Aviation Authority to rethink their charges to the 2016 Airshow season

8. Make planting trees a priority to reduce flooding by improving soil and drainage
9. The government has no mandate to privatise the NHS and should cease immediately
10. Stop car insurance companies ripping under 25s off with sky high prices

4) Consideration of public petitions with Government observations

The Committee considered the following public petitions which had received Government observations in the current Parliament.

1. Planning and studentification
2. Climate change

5) Consideration of responses which are more than 28 days late

Ordered, That the Committee would write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs about the following petitions.

1. Make planting trees a priority to reduce flooding by improving soil and drainage
2. To Change the Law so People who Abuse Animals go to Prison

6) Consideration of e-petitions which have closed

The Committee considered the list of e-petitions which had closed between 20 and 26 February.

7) Petitions for decision by Committee

Resolved, That the complaint to reject the petition 121286 submitted by Neil Franks should be upheld.

8) Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 8 March at 2.00pm]

TUESDAY 1 March 2016

Members present:

Helen Jones, in the Chair

Ian Blackford	Steve Double
Oliver Dowden	Paul Flynn
Paul Scully	

1) Debate on petition about contract negotiations with the BMA

Resolved, That Helen Jones MP would lead the debate about the petition 121262.

2) Evidence sessions on petition about meningitis B vaccine

The Committee considered this matter.

3) Consideration of e-petitions

The Committee considered the following petitions with over 10,000 signatures.

1. Buffer zones for abortion clinics
2. Stop private parking companies charging disproportionate penalties in car parks
3. To stop pet shops selling puppies in store and keeping a 'stock' of puppies

The Committee noted that the Environment Food and Rural Affairs Committee is conducting an inquiry on Animal welfare: domestic pets.

4. Publicly funded bodies should keep the freedom to boycott unethical companies
5. Call on Parliament for a vote of no confidence in the current Government
6. Prevent Obama From Speaking In Westminster Regarding The In/Out Referendum
7. Give the Meningitis B vaccine to ALL children, not just newborn babies

4) Consideration of public petitions with Government observations

The Committee considered the following public petition which had received a Government observation in the current Parliament.

1. Compensation for negligent medical treatment

5) Consideration of e-petitions which have closed

The Committee considered a list of petitions which have closed between 27 February and 4 March.

6) Funding for research into brain tumours

The Committee considered this matter.

7) Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 15 March at 2.00pm]

TUESDAY 1 March 2016

Members present:

Helen Jones, in the Chair

Ian Blackford	Paul Flynn
Catherine McKinnell	Paul Scully

1) Declaration of Interests

The Chair welcomed Catherine McKinnell to the Committee replacing Kate Osamor.

Catherine McKinnell declared that she had no interests to declare other than those already declared in the Register of Interests.

2) Correspondence

Resolved, that the following letter to be reported to the House for publication.

1. Letter of 3 February from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans.

3) Consideration of e-petitions

The Committee considered the following petitions

1. UK Government and Departments from labeling "State Pension" as benefits!
2. Legislate to introduce minimum sentences for assaulting police officers
3. Stop plans to make it a criminal offence to not pay back your student loan
4. Continuous blood glucose monitoring for diabetics to be funded by NHS
5. Amend the Animal Welfare Act;make it illegal to leave an animal in a hot vehicle
6. Public Holiday in place of Feb 29th as the average salaried person loses £113
7. All teaching staff to learn about the Autistic Spectrum

8. Pay school support staff the whole time contracts that they so rightly deserve
9. Save the Police Unit that Protects Wildlife from Human Cruelty

4) Consideration of e-petitions which have closed

The Committee considered the list of e-petitions which had closed between 4 and 11 March.

5) Consideration of petitions waiting for a response for more than 28 days

The Committee considered this matter.

6) Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

7) Meningitis B vaccine

The Committee heard oral evidence from the following witnesses.

1. Lee Booth, petition creator
2. Jenny and Neil Burdett
3. Matt Dawson
4. Claire Timmins and Linda Parkes

[Adjourned till Tuesday 22 March at 2.00pm]

TUESDAY 1 March 2016

Members present:

Helen Jones, in the Chair

Ian Blackford	Oliver Dowden
Paul Flynn	Ben Howlett
David Mackintosh	Paul Scully

1) Debate on the meningitis B vaccine petition

Resolved, That the debate on this petition will be on Monday 25 April and led by Ben Howlett MP.

2) Consideration of e-petitions

The Committee considered the following petition with over 100,000 signatures.

1. Reverse the ESA disability benefit cut

Resolved, That a debate would not be scheduled on this matter on the grounds that the House of Commons had recently debated and voted on amendments relating to the cut in Employment and Support Allowance as part of the Welfare Reform and Work Bill.

The Committee considered the following petitions with over 10, 000 signatures.

2. Don't ban tackling in school rugby
3. Make passing / approaching horses and horse drawn vehicles part of driving test
4. Stop a new Thames Crossing being built in Thurrock
5. Only British voters should be allowed to vote in the EU referendum
6. Give EU citizens living & working in the UK the right to vote in EU Referendum
7. Save British Steel making. Scunthorpe, Teesside, Port Talbot etc
8. Please help keep Teesside Steelmaking open
9. Give the hedgehog better legal protection in order to reverse its decline
10. Cancel the end of Key Stage 2 SATs tests for 2016
11. Group B Strep Prevention - Provide consistent screening and education
12. Extend the Early Years Foundation Stage from "birth to 5" to "birth to 7"
13. Consider a vote of No Confidence in Jeremy Hunt, Health Secretary
14. Jeremy Hunt to resume meaningful contract negotiations with the BMA

3) Consideration of public petitions with Government observations

The Committee considered this matter.

4) Request from a Government department to change its response to an e-petition

Resolved, That the Committee would allow to change the government response to petition submitted by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Ordered, That the Chair would write to the Leader of the House about this matter.

5) Consideration of e-petitions which have closed

The Committee considered a list of e-petitions which had closed between 12 and 18 March.

6) Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

