



Guidance on Accessing Politics Easy Read Part 3



**Inclusion
Scotland**

Disabled People's Organisation

Our voices ■ Our choices

Access to Politics

Part 3



What is a petition?



Inclusion Scotland made this guide:

- to show disabled people how to get involved in politics.
- to show how to make politics accessible for disabled people.



It is in 8 parts:

1. What are my rights? What can change to make it easier for me?
2. Who represents me?
3. Petitions.
4. How to take part (1).
5. How to take part (2).
6. Tips for campaigning.
7. Election day.
8. Accessibility checklist.



We hope this guide is useful to you.

Get in touch with us at:

civicparticipation@inclusionscotland.org

to tell us what you think of the guide or if you need advice and support.



Petitions



A petition is a way to ask Parliament to do something.

It says what you want Parliament to do and why.



Make sure it is an issue the Parliament can do something about.

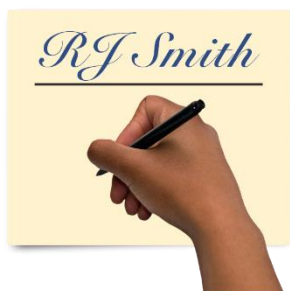
Petitions should be about things that will affect people in Scotland.

They should not be about things that are personal to just you.



If it is about a more local matter, for example a school closing, then it would be better to bring it up with your local council.

Petitioning the Scottish Parliament



You only need one signature to send your petition to the Scottish Parliament.

You can be any age and put a petition in any language including British Sign Language and Braille.

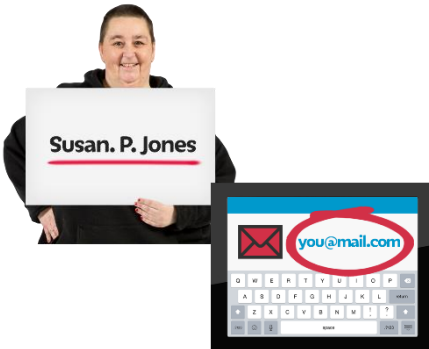
Your petition must be about something that is devolved.



You need to [register and create an account on the parliament's website](#) before you can create your petition.



This lets you look at your petitions, change them, and find out what is happening to them.



Petitions must include:

- **Information about you.**

Your name, postal address, and email address.



The Parliament has a privacy notice for the petitions system which say how this information will be used and looked after.



- **Petition title**

In a few words say what your petition is about.

- **Petition summary**

One or two sentences about what you want the Parliament to do.



- **Previous action taken**

You must already have done something to tell people about the issue.

You must have got in touch with at least one of your MSPs or the Scottish Government.



- **Background information**

Any other information that would help MSPs understand the problem.



The Petitions Team will send you an email to say they have got your petition.

They will check it is clear and follows the rules of the Scottish Parliament.



When your petition is agreed it goes on the [petitions' website](#).



You have 6 weeks where you can get more signatures and comments on your petition but this is not needed.



You can get signatures by sharing your petition on social media, or asking other organisations to tell people about it on their social media and newsletters.

The Public Petitions Committee (Scottish Parliament)



There are 7 MSPs on the Public Petitions Committee.

They look at every petition.

The committee might ask you to meet them to talk about your petition.



The Committee will write to the Scottish Government and other organisations like local councils, health boards, or police forces (it depends what your petition is about).

The committee will ask them questions relating to your petition.



They will send you the replies and ask what you think.

The petition and all the replies go back to the committee.



The committee will keep bringing the petition back to look at progress and what else needs to happen.

More information on petitioning the Scottish Parliament is available [here](#).

Petitioning the UK Parliament



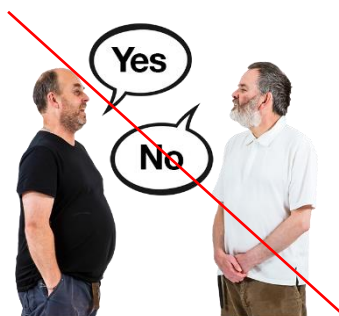
You can make or sign a petition that asks for a change to the law or to government policy.

Your petition must be about a reserved matter.



After 10,000 signatures, petitions get a reply from the government.

After 100,000 signatures, petitions are considered for debate in Parliament.



Petitions which reach 100,000 signatures are almost always debated.

It may not be debated if the issue has already been debated recently or there is a debate scheduled for the near future.



You need the e-mail addresses of five supporters to get your petition started.

The Petitions Team will ask for this after you make your petition.



They will only turn down petitions that do not meet the required minimum standard.



More information on petitioning the UK Parliament is available [here](#).