

Summary of Petition Processes in Responding Legislatures

Legislature	Initialisation	Threshold No. of Signatures	Admissibility Criteria	Possible Actions and Outcomes	Notes
<p>Scottish Parliament [SP] <i>Paper and online systems</i> Bespoke Committee for Petitions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Open online account through the system * Draft petition using online template * Petition submitted through system to clerking team who check it for compliance with admissibility criteria * If not admissible petitioner advised why * If accepted petitioners are given option of having the petition hosted online for a period of up to six weeks or passed to the Petitions Committee immediately 	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Must comply with SOs and be in the proper form * Must state clearly what the petitioner wants * Contain summary of action taken to date * Must relate to a matter Parliament has powers to act on * Cannot be the same/substantially the same as another petition closed less than a year earlier * No deadline for closure of the petition - petitioner to decide * No age or residency restrictions * No limit to the number of petitions any one person can have open at any time - but must be on different topics * Must not be under consideration elsewhere - e.g. subject Committee, other public body etc. * Must not seek to overturn the decision of another public body * Must not seek resolution of personal or commercial disputes * Cannot contain language that is offensive or potentially defamatory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * No further action * Petitions Committee can conduct its own inquiry * Can be referred to relevant Subject Committee * Petitions Committee can bid for Parliamentary time to have subject of the petition debated in plenary 	<p>Having online account allows storage of personal Data without compromising data protection?</p> <p>Having online template minimises risk of inadmissibility</p> <p>Committee has powers to call for persons or papers and has access to full range of support services e.g. research and legal advice</p>

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<p>National Assembly for Wales [NAW]</p> <p><i>Paper and online system</i></p> <p>Bespoke Committee not required but is established in practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Petitions are submitted through NAW website * Admissibility determined by Clerk to the Petitions Committee in accordance with SOs * List of inadmissible petitions is published periodically giving reasons * Presiding Officer ultimate arbitrator * No requirement for a Petitions Committee but in practice NAW has established one to consider admissible petitions * All admissible petitions are sent to the Petitions Committee * No difference in the way paper and online petitions are managed * Once petition finishes collecting signatures petitioner is offered the opportunity to present it personally to the Committee 	<p>No fewer than 10</p> <p>Unless it is from an organisation or association</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Must comply with SOs and be in the proper form * Must state clearly what the petitioner wants * Contain summary of action taken to date * Must relate to a matter Parliament has powers to act on * Cannot be the same/substantially the same as another petition closed less than a year earlier * No deadline for closure of the petition - petitioner to decide * No age or residency restrictions * No limit to the number of petitions any one person can have open at any time - but must be on different topics * Must not be under consideration elsewhere - e.g. subject Committee, other public body etc. * Must not seek to overturn the decision of another public body * Must not seek resolution of personal or commercial disputes * Petitions cannot be submitted by a Member of the NAW * Cannot contain language that is offensive or potentially defamatory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * No further action * Petitions Committee can conduct its own inquiry * Can be referred to relevant Subject Committee * Committee can report to the NAW on any petition and when it does this prompts a debate in plenary with a response from the relevant Minister * Committee can close the case on a petition at any time but the reason for this must be given to the petitioner * Outcome of any action taken must be reported back to the petitioner 	<p>Petitions Committee does not follow the political balance of the NAW. Has 4 members, one from each political group - the Chair's political group is taken into account iro the requirement for political balance of Committee Chairs in the NAW</p> <p>Committee has powers to call for persons or papers and has access to full range of support services e.g. research and legal advice</p> <p>Committee is supported by Clerk, two deputy clerks and a team support officer</p>

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<p>House of Commons</p> <p>[HOC]</p> <p><i>Paper and online system</i></p> <p>No bespoke Committee considered by Back Bench Business Committee if required</p>	<p>* petition submitted on the Government website</p> <p>* Petition goes to Clerk of Public Petitions</p> <p>* If admissible it is passed to relevant Select Committees who must put them on their agenda</p>	<p>10 000 Government response</p> <p>100 000 to Back Bench Bus Committee for possible debate</p>	<p>* Submitted and signed only by British citizens or persons normally resident in the UK</p> <p>* Must be in English or, if not, accompanied by translation certified by a Member</p> <p>* Must include name, address (not published) and email (not published)</p> <p>* Must call for specific action from the Government and be within the HOC power to grant</p> <p>* Must name the Government Dept to which it is addressed</p> <p>* Must not contain confidential, libellous or defamatory statements</p> <p>Must use temperate and respectful language</p> <p>Must not be vexatious or malicious</p> <p>Must not relate to matters outside the remit of Government</p> <p>Can remain open for up to one year</p>	<p>* No further action</p> <p>* Generate a response from Government</p> <p>* Be sent to Back Bench Business Committee which MAY schedule it for debate in Westminster Hall, but debate and vote are not binding on Government policy</p>	<p>Process in HOC still under development and latest report from the Procedures Committee makes recommendations to bring the process more in line with models operated in Scotland and Wales (Report dated Dec 2014)</p>

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<p>Houses of the Oireachtas</p> <p><i>Paper and online system</i></p> <p>Bespoke Committee for Petitions</p>	<p>* Petitions are sent to a joint sub-Committee on Public Petitions</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>* Cannot be the same, or substantially the same as another petition brought on behalf of the same person, body corporate or unincorporated association in the life of that Dáil Sinead</p> <p>* It must not be frivolous, vexatious or abuse the system</p> <p>* It must relate to matters that the Dáil has powers to act on</p> <p>* Must comply with SOs and be in the proper form</p> <p>* It must not be sub judice</p> <p>* It must not contain defamatory language</p> <p>* Must not require Committee to consider anything that has been the subject of a decision by another regulatory public body, ombudsman etc.</p> <p>* Must set out what steps have been taken to date to resolve the matter</p> <p>* Must not contain the name or names of individuals</p>	<p>* No further action</p> <p>* Can invite the petitioner to speak to the Committee</p> <p>* Can seek additional evidence</p> <p>* Can invite Government Ministers to attend meetings and answer questions</p>	<p>No submission from the Houses of the Oireachtas</p> <p>data taken from 3rd party sources</p>

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<p>NI Assembly</p> <p>Paper petitions only</p> <p>No bespoke Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Petition received * Clerk of Business Committee advised * Admissibility under SO 22 established * Business Committee notified * Business Committee decides if and when petition will be presented in plenary 	<p>no threshold</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Must relate to matter within the legislative competence of the Assembly Must not contain matter in breach of the privileges of the Assembly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * If Members offers to present petition in Plenary, the Business Committee is notified and considers if and when presentation will be scheduled * All petitions received are notified to the Clerk who advises the Speaker and OFMFM * OFMFM advises relevant Departments who action petition as appropriate 	