

**From:** Karl Stewart [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 15, 2014 10:55 PM  
**To:** Ross, Alison  
**Subject:** Introduce E-Petitions in NI

I am writing to express my support for the introduction of electronic petitions to the Northern Ireland Assembly. I believe this would be a valuable mechanism of enhancing the Assembly's public engagement, providing additional opportunities for people to influence the debate and express their views on issues that matter to them.

Going to university in England and watching as politicians in Northern Ireland have petty arguments, point score and make policy decisions based solely on their personal religious beliefs as opposed to what is fair and forward thinking is embarrassing. Friends and colleagues cannot believe the state of Stormont when they see me reading the NI news. E-petitions would give an easy platform for the silent majority in NI who have lost faith in the political system to have their say.