



PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01510

Name of petitioner

Jody Curtis on behalf of Emergency Service and Non Emergency Service Call Centres

Petition title

Emergency Service and Non Emergency Service Call Centres

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to undertake a committee inquiry into the closure of Police, Fire, and Non-Emergency Service Centres north of Dundee. In particular, the major concerns raised have been the loss of public knowledge; public safety; officers being off the street and overwhelmed in managing the increased workload this would create.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

Written to and encouraged others to write to their local MP.

I am aware that employees at Aberdeen Service Centre have also written to their MPs and indeed the Chief of Police Scotland, asking them to and reconsider the closures. They have yet to receive responses.

I have also emailed the Scottish Police Authority Complaints Department and am still waiting for a response.

As yet I have not had a response from my local MSP.

Alongside this petition I will acquire the contact details of the relevant Minister to which these organisations are accountable, and appeal to them for a review of the decision.

Petition background information

I have previously worked in the FSC based in Aberdeen and am well aware of the incredible amount of work that is undertaken there.

Front line staff and members of the public have raised serious concerns that the decommissioning of control rooms and service centres will have serious, adverse effects on the service delivery north of Dundee. The loss of local knowledge and understanding is critical in getting Police or Fire services exactly where they are needed as quickly as possible.

Furthermore it is imperative that the vast, varied and invaluable workload that the service centres perform, be recognised. In a force which can be accused of being stretched thin with response times and successful prosecutions, the FSC allow officers to be where they are most needed.

Finally it must be recognised that because the control room and service centre staff are in effect police officers without warrant cards, the proposed reduction in numbers creates a workload that only the warranted officers can fill. This is effectively a cut in frontline policing. There is little doubt these changes are detrimental to public order and safety and stretching our serving officers thin. They must be reviewed and dismissed.

Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/emergencycallcentres>

Related information for petition

The link below is for the Facebook page Save Aberdeen Service Centre of which over 4000 people are members (including Police Scotland Employees). A further page to save Aberdeen's Control Room has over 6000 members.

<https://www.facebook.com/saveaberdeenpolicecontrolroom?fref=ts>

<https://www.facebook.com/SaveAberdeenServiceCentre?fref=ts>

<http://www.spa.police.uk/about-us/151169/> - this is the website for the Scottish Police Authority Complaints department.

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

0

Closing date for collecting signatures online

22 / 03 / 2014

Comments to stimulate online discussion

The purpose of this petition is to show the wide spread concern for public safety and appeal to Scottish Parliament to take action with those accountable for this decision.