



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01775

Name of petitioner

Catrina Drummond

Petition title

Introduce statutory allergy care legislation in nurseries and schools

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to pass legislation that will make an allergy care policy statutory for every nursery and school and to establish appropriate standards for nursery and school staff of medical training, education and care for children with anaphylaxis.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

I have contacted Marie Todd MSP and Jamie Stone MP. I have also contacted Gail Ross MSP, and her caseworker has been in touch with my local authority to ask whether there is any way that training and guidance with regard to anaphylaxis can be implemented as a matter of course, with clear policy and guidelines offered for all staff. There has been no response.

Petition background information

Currently, there is no statutory legislation to govern nursery and school policies in regard to the care of children with life-threatening allergies. As a result, the provision of care in our schools is haphazard and inconsistent. This is shocking and risks the lives of vulnerable children every day.

The number of people living with allergies in the UK is rising by 5% every year. The 'first wave' of allergic disease occurred some 50 years ago with a huge surge in asthma and hay fever. We are now experiencing a 'second wave' of allergic disease, which has presented itself with a sharp increase in people suffering from life threatening food allergies. Figures from 2012 suggest at least 1 in 40 children in the UK are suffering from at least one serious allergy.

Worryingly, in the last decade, hospital A&E emergency departments have seen a huge increase in anaphylaxis admissions. Today, more children than ever are being diagnosed with food allergies, as are an increasing number of adults, to foods that were previously safe for them to eat.

It is absolutely crucial that these children are provided with the same safe environment

It is absolutely crucial that these children are provided with the same safe environment every other child is.

From my own personal experience, it has become apparent that there is a general lack of awareness and education with regards to allergy care in schools and I am aware that many others have had the same experience. Teachers should feel confident that they have had enough allergy training and education to prepare them for looking after children with life-threatening allergies, and parents should feel confident that they are sending their children to a safe environment.

I arranged Allergy Awareness training for two local schools with funding from local wind farms as there is currently nothing available through the local authority. An online training course was mentioned but I believe that is not comprehensive enough. Currently the head teacher is expected to carry out risk assessments.

Unique web address

<https://www.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/allergyprovisioninschools>

Related information for petition

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

NO

How many signatures have you collected so far?

0

Closing date for collecting signatures online

N/A

Comments to stimulate online discussion