

PE1731/N

South Lanarkshire council submission of 28 October 2019

With regard to your undernoted email of 1 October 2019 regarding the above Petition South Lanarkshire Council would respond to the four questions asked as follows:

- *What is your policy on the audio recording of public council meetings?*
The Council does not have a formal policy in respect of audio recording of its public meetings. Historically this has not been an issue for the Council. Officers can only recollect one instance of such a request being made which was refused in the circumstances of that case. However the Council is currently considering whether to introduce live broadcasting of its public meetings on an audio and visual basis.
- *If your council does not permit audio recordings of public meetings, what is the rationale for this?*
Not applicable as there is no such policy. The Council does not currently permit members of the public or committee members to record Committee or Council meetings for the reasons given in the response to the question below.
- *What are considered to be the concerns of allowing members of the public to audio record public council meetings?*
This Council would be concerned if the public were to be allowed to audio record public meetings. In particular such recordings are open to editing by the person taking them which makes them an unreliable record of proceedings. Selective editing could result in a false or misleading record being presented to further particular individual interests.
- *With regards to the actions being called for in the petition, are there any constraints faced by local authorities on what has been proposed?*
The Council has nothing further to add.