

Additional Information

The information in a petition must be submitted in good faith. In order for the petition service to comply with the law, you must not include:

- Party political material. Please note, this does not mean it is not permissible to petition on controversial issues;
- anything vexatious, abusive or otherwise inappropriate;
- information which may be protected by an injunction or court order (for example, the identities of children in custody disputes);
- material which is potentially confidential, commercially sensitive, or which may cause personal distress or loss;
- any commercial endorsement, promotion of any product, service or publication;
- the names of individual officials of public bodies, unless they are part of the senior management of those organisations;
- the names of family members of elected representatives or officials of public bodies;
- the names of individuals, or information where they may be identified, in relation to criminal accusations;
- language which is offensive, intemperate, or provocative. This not only includes obvious swear words and insults, but any language to which people reading it could reasonably take offence.

We reserve the right to reject:

- petitions that are similar to and/or overlap with an existing petition or petitions;
- petitions which ask for things outside the remit or powers of the Council;
- statements that don't actually request any action;
- wording that is impossible to understand;
- statements that amount to advertisements;
- petitions which are intended to be humorous, or which have no point about Council policy (however witty these are, it is not appropriate to use a publically-funded website for purely frivolous purposes);
- issues for which an e-petition is not the appropriate channel (for example, correspondence about a personal issue);
- Freedom of Information requests. This is not the right channel for FOI requests; information about the appropriate procedure can be found at Freedom Of Information Act 2000.

We will strive to ensure that petitions that do not meet our criteria are not accepted, but where a petition is accepted which contains misleading information we reserve the right to post an interim response to highlight this point to anyone visiting to sign the petition.

Common causes for rejection

In order to help you avoid common problems, we've produced this list:

- Please don't use 'shouting' capital letters excessively as they can make petitions fall foul of our 'impossible to read' criteria.
- We cannot accept petitions which call upon the Council to "recognise" or "acknowledge" something, as they do not clearly call for a recognisable action.

Petitioners may freely disagree with the Council or call for changes of policy. There will be no attempt to exclude critical views and decisions will not be made on a party political basis.