



LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Written Ministerial Statement

13 September 2012

e-Petitions

Leader of the House of Commons and Lord Privy Seal (Rt. Hon Andrew Lansley CBE MP): Since my predecessor launched the Government's e-petitions site in July 2011, the site has received more than 6.4 million signatures, shared across more than 16 000 petitions. 11 e-petitions have passed the 100 000 signature threshold, making them eligible for debate. All 11 of these have been debated, or in the case of the West Coast Main Line e-petition have scheduled for debate in the new Monday afternoon allocation in Westminster Hall.

e-Petitions have been an important part of increasing public understanding of Parliament. To improve engagement with petitioners, I am today announcing a new threshold of 10 000 signatures to trigger written Government responses to e-petitions, in addition to the existing threshold of 100 000 signatures that makes e-petitions eligible for debate.

Once an e-petition has passed 10 000 signatures, departments will provide a response that will appear on the website and be e-mailed to all signatories who opted-in to receive updates on that petition. Responses will include a statement of the Government's policy on the issue, and details of any relevant Parliamentary processes that are ongoing.

All e-petitions currently open for signature on the site, which have more than 10 000 signatures, will receive a response from departments; we expect most of these to be published before the House returns from the Conference recess. Responses to e-petitions that subsequently pass the 10 000 signature threshold will be published on a rolling basis on the relevant page of <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk>