

# Are participation requests helping community empowerment?

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#WWSConf18

#communityempowerment



# Insights

## Data from PSA annual reports:

19 applications

12 of which were accepted

6 of which were refused

***PSAs are framing PRs differently so the numbers don't tell us everything...***

*e.g.*

'Participation Requests are a formal mechanism for dialogue with the Council. Our hope is that as we work to ensure good opportunities for informal dialogue then the need for formal approaches will be the exception rather than the rule'

Empowering people and places

# Insights

## Participation Requests-

‘enable the active participation of communities in addressing the issues and opportunities which are of the greatest importance to them’

### ***...which communities?***

Within the annual reports very few PSAs made reference to the ways in which support and promotion has been tailored for marginalised group, although the guidance document for PSAs includes suggestions for specific groups with protected characteristics and ‘disadvantaged and marginalised’ groups more broadly.

# What's next?

- Case studies are underway to explore the impact of PRs on community empowerment from the perspectives of the communities involved

## ***Key Questions:***

Where do PRs fit within the range of other participation processes?

Which processes work best?

For whom?

Under what circumstances?

# Resources

- Hill O'Connor, C and Steiner, A. 2018. Review of Participation Requests Annual Report: Summary. Available at:

<https://beta.gov.scot/publications/independent-evaluation-of-community-empowerment-act-parts-3-and-5-interim-findings/>

- Lightbody, R. 2017 'Hard to reach' or 'easy to ignore'? Promoting equality in community engagement, Edinburgh: What Works Scotland.

<http://whatworkscotland.ac.uk/publications/hard-to-reach-or-easy-to-ignore-promoting-equality-in-community-engagement-evidence-review/>

- Paterson, A. 2018. One piece of the puzzle: A summary of learning from SCDC's work around participation requests. Available at:

<http://www.scdc.org.uk/media/resources/policy-and-practice/One%20piece%20of%20puzzle.pdf>

- Forthcoming paper from What Works Scotland by Evgeniya Plotnikova and Hayley Bennett [whatworkscotland.ac.uk](http://whatworkscotland.ac.uk)

