



**PUBLIC PETITION NO.**

**PE01520**

**Name of petitioner**

Mary Laing

**Petition title**

Unrestricted freedom to build on plots of up to 1 acre

**Petition summary**

We call on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to allow every owner-occupier of a plot of up to 1 acre in area the unrestricted freedom to build or extend accommodation for themselves or family members, without any requirement that they seek planning permission, a building warrant, or other authorisation.

**Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition**

I have contacted both the Scottish Government and a number of local authorities, and they have all been absolutely clear that they wish the present regime regarding both planning permission and building control to continue.

**Petition background information**

The modern regime of planning permission dates back to the years following the First World War and to the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act which was enacted after the Second World War in 1947. Since then, the position has become that a large proportion of people in Scotland live in houses which they have had to borrow enormous sums to be able to afford to buy, often equivalent to more than 10 years' wages after tax. Such debtors have usually had to agree, in return for borrowing the money, to allow the titles to their homes to be subject to charges imposed by the moneylenders. Coupled with the propensity to borrow, the scarcity of available land because of the planning permission regime has had a major upward effect on prices. People have been caught in a vicious circle of insecurity, indebtedness, and high prices. They also find themselves in a weaker position with regard to their employers, being at risk of losing their family homes if they tell their employers that they want better conditions, or higher salaries, or shorter hours, or else they will quit.

There is no good reason for the norm to be for people to fall into huge debt just to be able to own a home.

By increasing the supply of land, the desired reform would cause a large-scale reduction in land prices.

It would reduce indebtedness.

It would make for better conditions of employment.

And it would encourage people to express themselves in designing and building the homes in which they live

What is needed is primary legislation to amend the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to abolish all restrictions which current planning law places on this kind of building work.

#### Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/buildwhatyoulikeon1acre>

#### Related information for petition

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

YES

**How many signatures have you collected so far?**

0

**Closing date for collecting signatures online**

13 / 05 / 2014

#### Comments to stimulate online discussion

Let us refuse to bow down to the unproductive interests of the bankers who lend money at interest and to the interests of unnecessary and self-perpetuating bureaucracy.

Let a thousand house styles bloom.

Unleash the creativity which is in us all.

Let us consign to the dustbin of history the need to borrow large sums and pay large amounts of money in interest just to be able to avoid paying large amounts of money in rent.