



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**PUBLIC PETITION NO.**

**PE01766**

### **Name of petitioner**

Andrew Buchan

### **Petition title**

Legal aid for private criminal prosecutions for unwaged and, or, learning-disabled victims of abuse.

### **Petition summary**

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to change the law to provide free legal aid to people who are unwaged and/or learning-disabled victims of abuse who wish to bring a private criminal prosecution.

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

I have written to a number of MSPs. I have appealed to councillors and charities and many other political representatives.

I have spoken with the Home Office and other officials including police and COPFS. None of them have assisted and most have only ever wrote letters and some have undermined my case.

### **Petition background information**

There is no legal aid for poor unwaged and learning-disabled victims of crime. Many of us are ignored and or exploited and forced to take civil actions and get no actual closure other than paltry amounts in compensation.

Based on my experiences as a child abuse victim to the present no lawyers are prepared to proceed with a private prosecution for the cases I have about the abuses and assaults against me. Solicitors refuse and claim they do not wish to proceed under legal aid because there is no money to be made.

The law needs to be changed as it is an unfair and prevents justice.

### **Unique web address**

<https://www.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/legalaidprivateprosecutions>

### 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**

11 / 12 / 2019

### Comments to stimulate online discussion

- Do you agree that poor unwaged and learning-disabled victims of abuse should get free legal aid for private criminal prosecutions?
- Do you have any experience of the issues raised in my petition?