

**PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF PE1340:
QUESTIONS ARISING FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS
(See 'Written submissions' for responses)**

TUESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2010—

Scottish Government—

- Will you extend the protection enjoyed by trees in conservation areas to all trees?
- Should there be a strict presumption against felling or damage to any trees, irrespective of whether or not these lie in a conservation area?
- What is your response to the points made by the petitioners that the costs of raising a TPO are very high, if not prohibitive, and that it is impractical for individuals or groups to attempt to apply for TPOs for large numbers of trees which, for example, surround a settlement or village? What solutions exist to address this type of situations?
- Can the system of Tree Preservation Orders be a) simplified, b) improved and c) made more accessible? If so, what actions will you take to that effect and when?
- What was the outcome of the recent consultation on the Tree Preservation Orders?
- What is the potential to establish a register to protect trees on a national/regional/local area basis?
- Does the tree protection that applies to developers also applies to householders?

A selection of local authorities (City of Edinburgh, Scottish Borders and East Renfrewshire)—

National Association of Tree Officers—

Royal Town Planning Institute—

Forestry Commission—

Woodland Trust (Scotland)—

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds—

Scottish Wildlife Trust—

Historic Scotland—

National Trust for Scotland—

- *[To all organisations]* Should there be a strict presumption against felling or damage to any trees, irrespective of whether or not these lie in a conservation area?
- *[Not to RSPB, National Trust for Scotland]* What is your response to the points made by the petitioner that the costs of raising a TPO are very high, if not prohibitive, and that it is impractical for individuals or groups to attempt to apply for TPOs for large numbers of trees which, for example, surround a settlement or village?
- *[to local authorities only]* What evidence do you have that people who propose to work on a tree in a Conservation Area which is not protected by a TPO, but has a trunk diameter over 75mm when measured at 1.5m from ground level, systematically give you notice? Similarly, what evidence do you have that people wishing to fell, prune or uproot a tree within a

Conservation Area, always give you six weeks notice? How is this enforced and monitored?

- *[To National Association of Tree Officers only]* Does the tree protection that applies to developers also applies to householders?