

Cabinet Secretary for Justice  
Kenny MacAskill MSP

T: 0845 774 1741  
E: scottish.ministers@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



Frank McAveety MSP  
Convener  
Public Petitions Committee  
TG.01  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP



23<sup>rd</sup> November 2009

Dear Frank

#### CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE 1169

Thank you for your letter of 5 November about Petition PE 1169 asking whether the Scottish Government will commission research into the issues raised in the Petition.

I recall that during the meeting on 6 October you said that the Committee had the option of commissioning its own research and I note that your letter details the remit of the proposed research.

As I said on 6 October we "live in a world of finite resources" and that the Scottish Government has its own priorities to meet from these limited resources so I am happy that the Committee takes forward its own research in this instance. We are more than happy to work with you on this issue. Once appropriate information in relation to the extent of the problem and the costs associated with options to address it is made available we can consider what action should be taken.

I hope the above is helpful to the Committee.



**KENNY MACASKILL**