

PE1351/AA

21st June 2012

CONSIDERATION OF PE1351, re: Petitioner's submission 20/06/2012,

Dear Scottish Petitions Committee,

Any independent National Confidential Forum process envisaged will be different in many respects, than that of the original Pilot of TTBH, namely it will have a broad spectrum of victim-survivors from a number of different institutions, whereas TTBH Pilot dealt solely with Quarriers and their victim-survivors.

The aggregation of victim-survivors from different institutions in any National Confidential Forum proposed or envisaged does present issues, challenges and concerns clearly not addressed in any TTBH Pilot or previous discussions or consultations.

These challenge's, issues and concerns in relation to any Independent National Confidential Forum can be addressed in the recently set-up Reference and Stakeholder group and through the SHRC Interaction (s) providing an opportunity for a wide range of stakeholders including victim-survivors to engage and participate. Victim-survivors and others can express their views and opinions on the National Confidential Forum and any of the other proposals.

The reason why past processes and consultations did not have the broad support of many Scottish victim-survivors and the processes were adversarial was due to the exclusion of many victim-survivors and others from fully participating in past direct dialogue and consultations by various organisations and Government including in Advisory Groups that the Petitioners were represented on.

It is important as part of this process in our view for Government, CELCIS and others including the SHRC to gather information, views and opinions on any Independent National Confidential Forum envisaged or proposed and any other outstanding issues as part of an equitable resolution to these issues, from as wide a range as possible of stakeholders including broad spectrum of victim-survivors from different institutions, the organisations and others directly affected by these issues and with a direct interest in the outcomes.

We sympathise and share the Petitioners concerns and that of other victim-survivors including those in our group regarding timescales.

However, the Petitions Committee, Scottish Government and CELCIS consultations and dialogue including the SHRC Interaction (s), nonetheless should be allowed sufficient time to gather all the facts and carry out there functions thoroughly within a reasonable time frame.

Yours sincerely

Jennie Bristow
Secretary