

**PE1367/EE**

**Safer Communities Directorate**

Drugs and Community Safety Division

T: 0131-244 4640

E: John.Brownlie@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Anne Peat  
Clerk to the Committee  
Public Petitions Committee  
TG.01  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

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Your ref: Petition PE1367

Our ref: A3614867

8 August 2012

Dear Ms Peat

Thank you for your letter of 18 May 2012 to the Scottish Government, following the Public Petitions Committee's consideration of Petition PE1367. The Committee agreed that it would write to the Scottish Government drawing attention to the existing evidence on the health impacts of the device and the evidence of NAS (the National Autistic Society), inviting the Scottish Government to consider the research and would be grateful to know what action the Scottish Government proposes to take, relating to the Mosquito Deterrent Device.

As you know from previous correspondence, the Scottish Government's framework for tackling antisocial behaviour, *Promoting Positive Outcomes*, was jointly published with COSLA in March 2009. This concluded that prevention and early and effective intervention should be at the heart of national antisocial behaviour policy. The Scottish Government does not believe that the „Mosquito“ device is consistent with this approach to tackling antisocial behaviour, and has not voiced any support for its use.

In addition to reviewing the evidence that the Scottish Government currently holds, SG officials have considered the views expressed by the National Autistic Society and others at the Committee meeting on 21 February 2012, and has also conducted a further literature search to ascertain whether or not any new evidence regarding the health impacts of the device has come to light.

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While the Scottish Government has not identified any new evidence from this literature search that would change its view from that expressed previously, it will continue to assess any new evidence that may become available and consider what actions might be necessary.

I outlined in my previous letter that the Scottish Government contacted ACPOS to discuss the applicability of using the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. ACPOS advised that “while ACPOS cannot speculate on hypothetical situations, as with all complaints to the Scottish Police Service, the circumstances reported will be considered and if there is sufficient evidence in Scots Law, a report will be submitted to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service for consideration of prosecution” and that “any future complaints will be fully and robustly investigated in accordance with the Scottish Crime Recording Standards”.

I hope that this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

**JOHN BROWNLIE**  
Policy Manager