

PE1367/W

Safer Communities Directorate

Drugs and Community Safety Division

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Anne Peat

Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee

Scottish Parliament

T3.40

EDINBURGH

EH99 1SP

Your ref: PE1367
Our ref: F4047406
28 October 2011

Dear Ms Peat

Thank you for your email of 3 October 2011 following the Public Petitions Committee's consideration of Petition PE1367 at its meeting on 20 September 2011. Your email sought further information from the Scottish Government regarding the meeting between Scottish Government and Home Office officials on 2 August 2011. My letter of 5 September outlined the points that Home Office colleagues had made to Scottish Government officials at that meeting.

Scottish Government officials outlined the background to the consideration of the mosquito sonic deterrent device in Scotland. This included the fact that the petition is being considered by the Public Petitions Committee of Scottish Parliament, and outlined the views of Ministers who are not supportive of this device. Officials outlined the limited information Ministers have regarding the apparently limited extent of the use of the device in Scotland. Officials also explained the concerns being expressed by the petitioner in his submissions to the Committee.

Officials asked whether any concerns similar to those being expressed in Scotland were being raised with colleagues at the Home Office. Officials also asked what plans Home Office colleagues have to deal with use of the Mosquito, and in particular whether there are any plans to ban the device or regulate its use. Officials asked what evidence Home Office officials have of any risks to health as a result of the device being used.

As stated in my letter of 5 September 2011, the points made by the Home Office are that ownership and use of the mosquito sonic deterrent device is legal; there do not appear to be any identified long term health risks; it is for individuals and organisations to ensure that the device is used in accordance with the manufacturers instructions in Scotland; and they appreciate that there is a level of concern around this device and will keep the position under review.

I hope that this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely

JOHN BROWNLIE
Community Safety Unit