

PE1393/Q

Dave Stewart MSP
Convener
Petitions Committee
Scottish Parliament
EH99 1SP



09 September 2012

Petition PE 1393

Dear Convener

Further to your meeting with my colleagues earlier this week regarding the progression of our petition (PE 1393) and following the committee's successful visit to our Safer Choices Service in June, we believe that an inquiry held by the committee examining how child sexual exploitation (CSE) in Scotland can be successfully challenged would make a vital contribution to the ongoing work in this area.

An inquiry would allow the committee the opportunity to:

- Review upcoming Scottish Government/University of Bedfordshire research and recommendations
- Learn and understand more about the scale and nature of the issue in Scotland
- Meet with practitioners and visit services set-up to tackle and prevent CSE helping to identify examples of good practice and where there are gaps in provision
- Meet with local authorities, NHS, schools and other agencies and relevant organisations to understand what is happening locally at an operational and strategic level, and where improvements can be made
- Develop recommendations on what more the Scottish Government, local authorities and other relevant agencies can do to prevent and tackle CSE in Scotland
- Help raise the profile of the issue among practitioners working with children and young people, young people and their families, as well as the wider public.

The Committee has taken a leading role on the issue of CSE since Barnardo's Scotland introduced our petition in June 2011 and we look forward to continuing our work together in tackling this crucial child protection issue.

Yours sincerely

Martin Crewe
Director
Barnardo's Scotland