

PE1457/H

Petition PE1457 The National Tree

It is almost a year since I initiated the process of petitioning the Scottish Parliament with the request that an official National Tree be declared and I am very pleased that, on the day that the Petitions Committee will next be considering the petition, Paul Wheelhouse will be launching a Public Consultation on the matter. I trust that the whole committee, having overseen the progress of the petition, is delighted at this development.

It is important that all means are used to bring the consultation to the attention of the public so that there is a high level of public involvement in the consultation and I therefore request that all members of the committee, individually and collectively, use a variety of means to engage the public; please make statements to the press both local and national, encourage all your contacts to vote for their choice of tree and encourage National Tree 'actions' locally and nationally (the ceremonial planting of trees in public parks; schools and youth groups having tree events).

If many participate in the consultation, the chosen tree would merit the title of National Tree which would then be used as a symbol of Scotland's recognition of the importance of our woodlands.

Yours sincerely

Alex Hamilton

11 August 2013