

PE1469/I

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**The Scottish
Government**
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Ms Anne Peat
Clerk
Public Petitions Committee
T3.40
Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP



LEGACY 2014
XX COMMONWEALTH GAMES
SCOTLAND

Your ref: PE 1469
Our ref: A7326000
6 December 2013

Dear Ms Peat

**PETITION PE1469 – NEIGHBOUR NOTIFICATION AND APPLICATIONS FOR WIND
TURBINES**

I refer to my letter of 20 September about the above Petition. I apologise for not replying within the intended timescale of the end of November.

As indicated in our letter of 22 May, the Scottish Government has been considering the issues raised by the Petition. As indicated in that letter, there are a number of issues around amending statutory requirements for neighbour notification in relation to, for example, considering the different circumstances in which particular developments may occur, the implications of changes for the wider planning system and ensuring requirements are proportionate.

Our initial reply also set out the existing publicity requirements for planning applications. Having considered potential changes to these, including the suggestions made to the Committee by the petitioner, we have decided against altering the legislation.

The Scottish Government does appreciate the concerns in this regard and will issue guidance on good practice in relation to public engagement on proposals for wind turbines. In compiling that guidance we will consider the different approaches that may be appropriate in different circumstances, including where the notification of individual properties may be appropriate. We will engage with stakeholders in this process, including a public consultation on a draft of the guidance before finalising it for publication.

We will advise the Committee early in the new year of the proposed timescales for this work.

While this was not the specific outcome sought by the petitioner, we believe this represents a proportionate response to the issues raised.

I hope this information is of assistance.

ALAN CAMERON