

**PE1479/A**

Mental Welfare Commission Letter of 7 June 2013

Dear Stuart

The Mental Welfare Commission notes the contents of the petition and is pleased to be asked to respond.

In the case of individuals with mental illness, it may be difficult for them to submit a complaint within the period of one year. For example, it may take some time for their mental health to recover sufficiently to be able to formulate a complaint. However, it may not be practicable to extend the period indefinitely. The Scottish Legal Complaints Commission should have discretion to consider complaints dating back more than one year. This could be covered under “exceptional circumstances” if it can be demonstrated that the individual was too unwell to formulate a complaint at an earlier stage.

Regards,

Donald Lyons  
Chief Executive