

Andrew Howlett
Assistant Clerk
Public Petitions Committee
Room T3.40
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

In 2014 Scotland Welcomes the World



Your ref: Public Petition PE1494
Our ref:
13 March 2014

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your letter of 5 March 2014 on behalf of the Public Petitions Committee advising the Scottish Government of the outcome of the Committee's further deliberations on Public Petition PE1494.

I am grateful to you for providing a link to the written evidence received by the Committee in relation to this petition. The information contained therein will be reviewed along with the written responses received by the Scottish Government to its *Consultation on proposals for a Mental Health (Scotland) Bill*.

It might be helpful if I say that a number of individuals and organisations who submitted written responses to the Committee will be aware of the current consultation exercise – through Scottish Government email alerts on the day of publication (23 December 2013) and also as a result of correspondence with the Scottish Ministers on a variety of mental health law matters. The Bill Team has also attended a number of meetings with service users.

The Committee has requested that the Scottish Government extends – for the benefit of the individuals who submitted written evidence on PE1494 - the closing date for the submission of responses, to its consultation on proposals for a Mental Health (Scotland) Bill. After careful consideration of this request, including the impact on the timing of the introduction of a draft Bill and accompanying documents to the Scottish Parliament before the Summer 2014 recess, I am pleased to be able to say that the Scottish Government is prepared to allow a short extension of 1 week. The closing date for receipt of responses from these individuals will therefore be Tuesday 1 April 2014.

As we discussed on the telephone earlier today, the Scottish Government does not have contact details for all the individuals concerned. A number of the individuals concerned have previously been in correspondence with the Scottish Government and, in the case of those individuals, I will email a copy of this letter and draw their attention to the consultation paper and the fact that the Scottish Government would welcome a written response to the

consultation paper by 1 April 2014. The consultation paper can be found on the Scottish Government's website www.scotland.gov.uk/mentalhealthlaw .

In the case of those individuals whose contact details the Scottish Government does not have (see Annex A), it would be most helpful if the Committee could arrange for a copy of this letter to be forwarded to them.

I am grateful for the Committee's assistance with this matter.



Carol Sibbald
Mental Health (Scotland) Bill Team Leader

Individuals yet to be notified

A Burns
Ann Greig
Walter Buchanan
Judith Gilliland
Christine MacVicar