

PE1513/B

Gary McLelland Email of 10 May 2014

Dear Committee,

I would like to draw the attention of the Public Petitions Committee to the impact that the proposal in this petition might have on so-called 'donor conceived persons'.

It is my understanding that the use of IVF means that a person can be convinced by anonymous sperm-donation.

I also understand that many mixed-sex and same-sex couples will use IVF to conceive, however, they will wish to (through legal due process) establish their parental rights in relation to the resultant child. There will of course not be two biological identifiable parents in this instance.

Another point worth considering is that the register of births is just that, not a register of conception. It takes two people to conceive a child, but only requires one to give birth. There may be occasions, for a variety of circumstances, that the identity of the father is unknown from the outset.

I am broadly supportive of the aims of the petition, I think the particular approach outlined is not the right one though.

I'd urge the Public Petitions Committee to call on the Scottish Government to set-up a review into the status of fathers in legal family matters.

Gary McLelland