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PE1515/H

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The Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Committee Members

PE01514: Making Time for Reflection representative of all beliefs

I note the contents of petition PE 1514 which seeks to impose a quota of 25% on contributions by atheists to Time for Reflection in the Scottish Parliament and limit contributions by representatives of religious denominations to 50%.

The present system seems to operate successfully under the supervision of the Presiding Officer and gives liberty to MSPs to propose whichever contributors they wish to participate. The prospect of imposing a quota system adds an extra level of complication which will be inflexible and unnecessarily prescriptive. The chosen proportions identified by the petitioner appear arbitrary and are far from reflective of the views and beliefs of the Scottish population.

Yours sincerely

John Deighan
Parliamentary Officer