

PE1518/J

Petitioner Email of 11 January 2015

PE1518

Good morning Chris

Having just read the briefing note being submitted attached to the above petition I was surprised and somewhat concerned that the Committee was being asked to consider closing it out at this stage.

Concerned on two fronts;-

1. If the petition is closed at this juncture it is in my opinion an acceptance that the Scottish Government has limited ambition in formulating robust Planning Law.

My old Collins English dictionary defines regulation as "a government or ministerial order having the force of law." Given its definition should a "regulation" which can be so easily avoided be classed as no more than a voluntary code of practise? The general public must be entitled to transparency and honesty when it comes to regulations which govern their lives.

It was disappointing to read in the brief that the Government official warranted finding a solution to the substance of my petition only a "fairly cursory consideration."

Surely it was worth more than just a fairly superficial attempt to repair an obvious fundamental flaw in the planning regulations?

This showed that the Scottish Government had little or no interest in the issue.

Item 11. From its wording it could be construed that I accept the phasing of developments to avoid the requirements of a Major development. This is not my opinion, being just another means by which developers avoid the meaningful consultation process required by Major developments.

2. If this petition is closed out at this stage there will remain more questions than answers, e.g. why were all the warnings received during the consultation process ignored?

"Is not ideal" good enough for the Scottish Government and a regulation "at the heart of a modernised planning system"?

Is a "regulation" whereby one day a development can be classed as Major by the planning authority and then by the deliberate manipulation of paper work next day it no longer fits that criterion fit for purpose? I would think not.

Could you oblige by circulating a copy of this note to the Committee prior to the Petition Committee meeting on Tuesday?

Kind regards

George Chalmers