



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

John Lamont MSP
*Member for Ettrick,
Roxburgh & Berwickshire*

David Stewart MSP,
Convener,
Public Petitions Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

15th October 2014

Dear David,

PE1521: No more Page 3 in the Scottish Sun and Scottish Parliament

Thank you for your letter regarding the No More Page 3 petition. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The Scottish Conservative Party is sympathetic to the No More Page 3 campaign and understands the concerns that it raises about the sexual objectification of women. You may have noted that some Conservative MSPs support this campaign and spoke in favour of it at a Members' Business debate in November 2013.

The Scottish Conservative Group therefore does not have a party line on this campaign. Instead members of the Scottish Conservative Group are currently free to express their own personal opinion on this matter

Personally, I am sympathetic to the 'No More Page 3' campaign and the petition's aims. However, notwithstanding the petition's call for the voluntary removal of page 3, I am uneasy about politicians interfering in what is essentially a decision for the media.

I firmly believe this is a decision that should be left to the newspaper itself and its customers.



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I am also not in favour of removing the Scottish Sun from the Scottish Parliament. It is up to individual members of staff and MSPs to take whatever action they believe is necessary and the Scottish Parliament should not seek to restrict access to a newspaper on the basis that it doesn't like the content of one page.

Yours sincerely,

John Lamont MSP
Scottish Conservative Chief Whip