

**PE1521/F**

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Dear David

**PE1521: No More Page 3 in the Scottish Sun and Scottish Parliament**

Thank you for your letter of 18 June 2014 about the above petition and please accept my apology for the delay in replying to you.

Your Committee has asked for my comments on the petitioners' request that the Scottish Parliament cease to stock or sell the Scottish Sun while it retains the Page 3 feature and the petitioners argue this is contrary to the Parliament's Equalities Framework. Your Committee has also asked for details of how many copies of this publication are stocked and sold and the locations the publication is displayed. This information, together with details of other newspapers is enclosed with this letter.

I have discussed your request with the SPCB.

The Corporate Body recognises the strength of feeling on this petition and notes that the Parliament has debated the wider issue of Page 3 by way of a Member's debate in November last year which garnered cross party support.

In terms of the availability of the Scottish Sun, two copies are supplied to the Parliament each day for sale at the coffee bar in the Garden Lobby, along with the other newspapers outlined in the enclosure to this letter. In addition, two reference copies of the Sun are also available to Members in the Queensberry House lounge and a further copy is available to MSPs in SPICe (our in-house information service). All of these areas are within private parts of the building. No newspapers are sold in parts of the building that are readily accessed by the public.

While the SPCB recognises the strength of feeling around Page 3, the Corporate Body is mindful that the Parliament should also recognise the right of individuals - and newspapers - to operate freely under the law.

Within that the SPCB considers it important, that Members and those working in the Parliament have the right to decide whether or not to purchase or read this publication, or indeed any other that is available for sale or viewing.

For those reasons the Corporate Body has no plan at present to prohibit the sale or availability of this paper at Holyrood

The SPCB notes the point made by the petitioners that the stocking of this publication is contrary to the Parliament's Equalities Framework. The SPCB takes very seriously the provisions made within this framework and considers that there would only be a breach if the stocking or sale of the publication amounted to sexual harassment under the Equality Act 2010. To date there has been no case law which challenges the stocking or selling of the Sun newspaper within any workplace in Scotland or the wider UK.

The Corporate Body will, of course, keep the position under review and take note in particular of any legal developments or any position adopted by the Parliament itself.

**P E GRICE**

Clerk/Chief Executive

## Newspapers available in the Scottish Parliament

### Annex A

#### **Newspapers Available in the Scottish Parliament**

These are the newspapers available at the Coffee Bar and Queensberry House Lounge.

<b>Newspaper</b>	<b>Coffee Bar (Aspretto)</b>	<b>Queensberry House Lounge</b>
	For Sale	For Reference
Scottish Sun	2	2
Daily Record	2	2
Herald	2	1
Scotsman	2	1
Daily Mail	1	
Courier	1	
Daily Express	1	
Press & Journal	1	
Evening News	8	
Telegraph	1	1
Times	1	1
Guardian	1	
Evening Times	3	
Financial Times		1

These are the newspapers currently available for reference from SPICe. One copy is available for each newspaper. There is also one copy of the Herald and the Scotsman available on business days in P1.02 (Members' lounge).

<b>Type</b>	<b>Newspaper</b>
<b>Daily papers</b>	Courier Daily Express Daily Mail Daily Mirror Daily Record Financial Times Guardian Herald Independent Press & Journal (National edition) Scotsman Sun Times
<b>Sunday papers</b>	Independent on Sunday Mail on Sunday Observer The People

	Scotland on Sunday Sunday Express Sunday Herald Sunday Mail Sunday Mirror Sunday Post Sunday Telegraph Sunday Times
<b>Journals</b>	New Scientist New Statesman Private Eye Spectator Times Higher Ed Times Scottish Ed
<b>Local Papers</b>	Press and Journal ( <b>Aberdeen Edition</b> ) Airdrie & Coatbridge Advertiser Alloa & Hillfoots Advertiser Annandale Herald Annandale Observer Arbroath Herald and Angus County Advertiser Ardrossan & Saltcoats Herald Argyllshire Advertiser Arran Banner Ayr Advertiser Ayrshire Post Banffshire Advertiser Banffshire Journal Barrhead News Bellshill Speaker Berwickshire News and East Lothian Herald Blairgowrie Advertiser Border Telegraph Brechtin Advertiser Buchan Observer Buteman Caithness Courier Campbeltown Courier Carluke Gazette Carrick Gazette Carrick Herald Clydebank Post Cumbernauld News & Kilsyth Chronicle Cumnock Chronicle Currie and Balerno news Deeside Piper & Herald Donside Piper & Herald Dumfries & Galloway Standard Dunfermline Press and West of Fife Advertiser Dunoon Observer & Argyllshire Standard East Fife Mail

	East Kilbride News East Lothian Courier East Lothian News Ellon Times & East Gordon Advertiser Eskdale and Liddesdale Advertiser Falkirk Herald Fife Free Press Fife Herald Forfar Dispatch Forres Gazette Galloway Gazette Galloway News Glenrothes Gazette Greenock Telegraph Hamilton Advertiser Hawick News Helensburgh Advertiser Highland News Huntly Express Inverness Courier Inverurie Herald Irvine Herald & Kilwinning Chronicle Irvine Times John O'Groat Journal Kilmarnock Standard Kilsyth Chronicle Kincardineshire Observer Kirkintilloch Herald Kirriemuir Herald Lanark Gazette Largs & Millport Weekly News Linlithgow Gazette Lochaber News Mearns Leader Midlothian Advertiser Milngavie & Bearsden Herald Moffat News Montrose Review Motherwell Times Musselburgh News and Portabello Advertiser Nairnshire Telegraph North Star Northern Scot and Moray and Nairn Express Northern Times Oban Times and West Highland Times Oradian Paisley Daily Express (daily) Peeblesshire News Perthshire Advertiser Portabello Reporter
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	Ross-shire Journal Rutherglen Reformer St Andrews Citizen Scots Independent Selkirk Weekend Advertiser Shetland Times Southern Reporter Stirling Observer Stornoway Gazette Stranraer & Wigtownshire Free Press Strathearn Herald Strathspey & Badenoch Herald Troon Times & Prestwick Times West Highland Free Press West Lothian Courier Wishaw Press
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