



PE1521/G

Independent / Green group of MSPs

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

Tuesday 4 November 2014

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 18 June regarding public petition PE1521: No More Page 3.

The members of our group enthusiastically support the No More Page 3 campaign. All five of us have signed the No More Page 3 letter to Sun editor David Dinsmore, and as a group we supported Jackie Baillie's motion S4M-07500 welcoming the campaign's success. As Alison Johnstone said in the debate on that motion, "the insidious objectification of women is relentless," and Page 3 is not only part of that objectification – it is its flagship.

We would note the shared guilt of other newspapers, including the Daily Star and Daily Sport, in similar forms of objectification, and the existence of subtler but perhaps just as damaging sexism in other publications, such as the Daily Mail website's notoriously invasive and judgmental "sidebar of shame". Page 3 is by no means the only deeply offensive and damaging content in our print media; the attacks on benefit recipients and immigrants to be found in many outlets are of particular concern.

We agree entirely with the petitioners that the Committee should contribute to the campaign by writing to Mr Dinsmore and to Gordon Smart, the editor of the Scottish Sun, urging them to remove the Page 3 feature from their newspapers.

The petitioners ask that the Sun and Scottish Sun no longer be sold or stocked in the Scottish Parliament. The Scottish Sun is currently sold at the coffee bar in the Garden Lobby; we agree that that it should no longer be sold, and ask the Committee to write to the Chief Executive with that request.

The Scottish Sun, like all national newspapers, is also held by SPICe. We believe most campaigners will understand that MSPs and researchers have a need to have access to newspapers in order to carry out their job – including to inform campaigns on this issue itself – so we recommend that SPICe continue to hold all national titles.

Yours sincerely,

John Finnie MSP

Patrick Harvie MSP

Alison Johnstone MSP

Jean Urquhart MSP

John Wilson MSP