

PE1525/H

Petitioner Email of 16 March 2015

Dear Chris,

Thank you for your email and attached response from Scottish Government re my petition. I am disappointed although not surprised at their response. I am fully aware of the financial constraints re legal aid. However, the present justice system is failing in its duty in protecting people from injustice. It is totally unacceptable that any person regardless of the nature of the case is left high and dry by the very system the public are expected to have confidence and trust in. There is currently no provision in place for people who have suffered injustice at the hands of the court other than the appeal system. If an appeal is not an option due to lack of finance, then there has to be some independent professional body in place where cases of injustice can be taken for a thorough and unbiased investigation. This is surely a basic human right and at the moment, one which is not being met. The justice system must take responsibility when they get things wrong and they must be held accountable for their failings.

Any case deemed to be worthy of going through court proceedings must be followed through to its correct conclusion and it is unacceptable and morally wrong for the system to simply wash their hands and walk away when injustice occurs. This leaves an unresolved situation and a very bitter taste in the mouth of anyone unfortunate enough to be a victim of the system. No one should ever have to accept injustice, but this is the reality, due to the way the system operates at present. Surely even one injustice is one too many and should never simply be brushed under the carpet and the view taken that the odd injustice is acceptable, because the alternative would be too costly. There can be nothing more precious and therefore, Justice must be for all, not only for those who can afford to pay for it. This is why I find the response from the Scottish Government objectionable and I urge the Public Petitions Committee to support me in trying to force changes which would lead to a fair justice system for all citizens of this country.

Catherine Fraser