

RESPONSE TO PETITION PE1541

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to officially recognise 'Flower of Scotland' as Scotland's national anthem.

On 14th January 2015 the Scottish Parliament Public Petitions Committee wrote to the RSNO regarding PE1541 specifically requesting that we "explain how the consultation [i.e. the RSNO's 2006 online poll to find the voters' choice for Scotland's national anthem] was carried out; the methodology and sample size[and] whether any follow-up work was undertaken by the RSNO or another organisation"

RESPONSE

In May 2006 the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO) announced through the press and online that it would play, at the Usher Hall, Edinburgh performance of Last Night of the ScottishPower Proms in June, the five most promising candidates for an official Scottish national anthem: Robert Burns' *A Man's a Man for a' that* and *Scots Wha Hae!*, *Highland Cathedral*, *Scotland the Brave* and *Flower of Scotland*. This would open an online poll from 11th June to 30th June during which the public were invited to vote for their choice of Scotland's national anthem.

The RSNO made available through its website recordings of the five songs, as well as the chance to vote in the online poll and join a web debate.

The result was announced at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall Last Night of the ScottishPower Proms on 1st July 2006, with *Flower of Scotland* being the clear winner, receiving 41% of the vote. *Scotland the Brave* was second with 29%, and *Highland Cathedral* third with 16%. Close to 10,000 votes were cast from every continent, except Antarctica and the result of the poll attracted international media coverage.

There was no follow-up work undertaken by the RSNO, nor, as far as we're aware, by any other organisation.

In 2014, Commonwealth Games Scotland commissioned the RSNO to provide recorded instrumental versions of *Flower of Scotland* for the medals ceremonies at Glasgow 2014 as the victory anthem for Team Scotland.

Kenneth Osborne
Acting Chief Executive