



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

The Presiding Officer
Rt Hon Tricia Marwick MSP

Michael McMahon MSP
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

8 December 2015

Dear Michael

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1580

Thank you for your letter dated 11 November 2015 requesting the SPCB's views on how the Scottish Parliament is upholding the terms of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

As we are aware Committees of the Scottish Parliament gather a diverse range of views in order to inform their work. All views expressed are considered by committees with the purpose of informing MSPs in reaching their own conclusion on an inquiry or on proposed legislation. Unless there are legal or other reasons for not doing so, evidence submitted to committees is accessible to all through the Parliament's website and oral evidence takes place in open, televised sessions. The SPCB notes that the Conveners Group agreed that it did not want to make any changes to the arrangements for dealing with evidence in light of ASH Scotland's representations to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee.

The SPCB considers that the code of conduct for parliamentary staff appropriately reflects our requirement for staff to act at all times with impartiality and demonstrate high standards of openness, fairness, transparency and professionalism in undertaking their role in supporting the work of the Parliament.

The SPCB's view is that the existing arrangements as outlined above are in keeping with the FCTC's own guidelines around interaction with the tobacco industry and that these have been adhered to.

Yours sincerely

TRICIA MARWICK