

**PE1403/F**

**Response to PE1403**

**By Peter Morris**

First of all may I thank David, Mark and all of the members of the Petitions Committee for their good wishes during my difficult time. All of your letters and emails were very encouraging to me. The hospital have just finished making my new leg and all I have to do now is to learn how to walk on it!

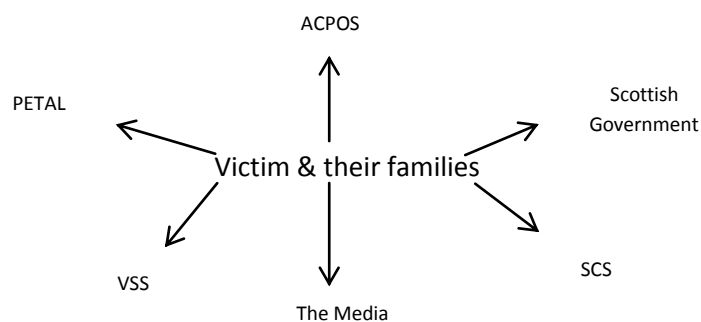
After having read the responses from the Scottish Government, PETAL (People Experiencing Trauma and Loss,) VSS (Victim Support Scotland,) ACPOS (Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland) and the SCS (Scottish Court Services) there are a number of issues that have arisen which I shall briefly try to address.

The point made by ACPOS, that communication between agencies and victims was not always effective once an organisations obligations have been met is, I believe, central to all the responses received.

It is my belief that a single independent point of contact (Case Companion) for victims, administered and co-ordinated by an independent multi-agency body with victims and their families' interests as the central objective is essential. As ACPOS said a single point of contact is a good concept but not one that we have managed to achieve yet.

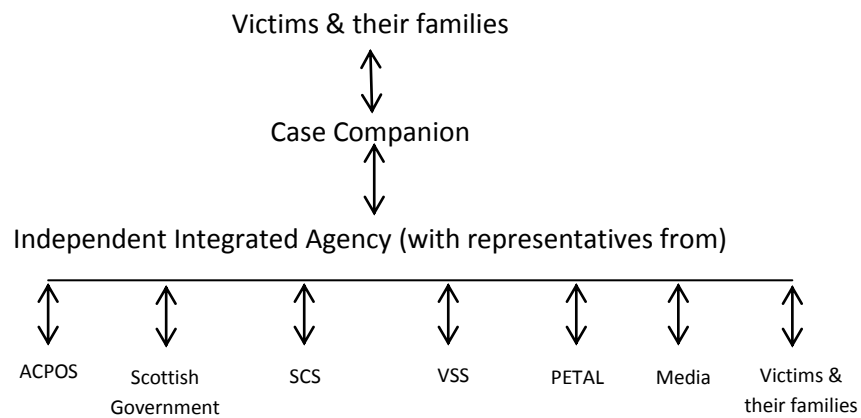
The current system has the victims and families at the centre of an ever confusing circle of organisations sometimes not knowing which way to turn for the advice and support that they need.

**Diagram 1**



As a suggestion instead of the current bewildering system for victims a new structure is suggested (please see Diagram 2) which would better meet the needs and minimum standards for victims and their families. This would also comply with the EU directive as pointed out by VSS and the Scottish Government.

**Diagram 2**



The evidence of Diagram 2, with all organisations represented, would encourage full integration of the agencies working towards more effective consideration for victims and their families.

There are a number of issues relating to PE1403 that I have not covered in my response, these issues are on record and I hope that the committee will give them due consideration.

It is of my considered opinion that if a single point of contact (Case Companion) could be established through an Independent Integrated Agency body then other issues not considered in this response would arise and be dealt with.

I would urge the Scottish Government to evaluate and meet this central need and if I achieve nothing else from my petition then this will have been worthwhile.

I would like to thank the Petitions Committee for their time and consideration.

**Peter Morris**