

**PE1403/G**

**Justice Directorate**

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Anne Peat  
Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

3 February 2012

Dear Anne,

**CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1403**

Thank you for your further letter dated 16 December asking whether the Scottish Government can confirm that as part of its Bill development process, the proposals for a “single point of contact” will be evaluated.

As previously advised we have begun a process of engagement with stakeholders to develop policy proposals for a Victims and Witnesses Bill. As part of that process we will be issuing a consultation document setting out the Scottish Government’s proposals, and seeking suggestions about other measures that could be taken forward.

That consultation is likely to seek views on measures which will address points in Mr Morris’ petition, including seeking views on a dedicated contact point to advise and update witnesses (many of whom are also victims) through the criminal justice process. It is also likely that we will seek views on other measures which could be developed to act as an information and contact point at various stages of the judicial process. It may be that some measures could be pursued through administrative changes rather than legislative ones but we will use the opportunity of this consultation to seek views.

We will ensure the Committee receives a copy of the consultation document once it is finalised.

Yours sincerely,

**GARY COX**

Head of Victims and Witnesses Unit