

PE1403/I

Petitioner Letter of 8 March 2012

Dear David and all of the petitions committee,

I have received the responses from ACPOS and the Scottish government to your requests and having read them I felt extremely disappointed that there was not a more positive response to my suggestions.

I feel that within the responses the crucial point of putting victims first was not addressed.

It appears to me that if minimum standards are to be attained for victims of crime and others affected there needs to be a change of mindset, which genuinely puts victims first as opposed to the needs of individual organisations.

To highlight this need there was a recent tragic example of a victim, David Rathband, the policeman who was shot and blinded by Raoul Moat. His suicide it could be argued was the fault of Mr Moat, Although I would also argue that a lot more could have been done to meet his emotional needs following the crime of which he was a victim. David Rathband set up a charity to help emergency service victims because he felt, rightly so, that their plight was not sufficiently addressed by the authorities in question. He subsequently did many fund raising events to promote his cause.

If someone of his high profile nature could not be identified as vulnerable and in need of post case care then what chance do victims and family members of lower profile cases stand.

In conclusion I would urge both the Scottish Government and ACPOS that the changes I have proposed are not only laudable and aspirational, to use their words, but essential if we want to achieve real change for victims of crime. I also urge the Scottish Government to make legislative, not just administrative change a, to make a real difference and b, to show the Scottish people that the new vision for Scotland also includes victims of crime.

With many thanks for your time and deliberations.

PETER MORRIS