



# The Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Scotland

Charles Iain R. Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont Grand Master Mason

David M Begg CA Grand Secretary

20 November 2013

Anne Peat  
Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee  
Room T3.40  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Dear Ms Peat,

## Petition Number PE 1491

I have read with interest the Minute of the meeting of the Public Petitions Committee of 12 November relating to the above numbered petition.

I note that the committee decided to write to:

- The Scottish Government
- The Lord President
- The Sherriff's Association
- The Scottish Justices Association
- The Lord Advocate
- The Crown Office
- The Procurator Fiscal Service and
- Police Scotland.

Might I suggest, in light of the judgements handed down by the European Court of Human Rights (and copied to you in my letter of 6 November 2013), that the committee might also wish to approach the Scottish Human Rights Commission? This body seems ideally suited to offer an opinion on what is essentially a matter of the Human Rights of Scottish Freemasons.

I also note that one of the members of the committee, Mr Angus MacDonald, MSP for Falkirk East, is a Freemason being a member of our Lodge Zetland No.391 (founded 1859) and has declared this in the Register of Members Interests.

Perhaps you would be so kind as to let me know, in due course, as to the committee's opinion regarding approaching the Scottish Human Rights Commission?

I would re-iterate that I am more than willing to appear in person before the committee. I would also add that I, and my colleagues, find it disquieting no Freemasons have ever been asked to give evidence in person.

Yours sincerely

David M. Begg, C.A.,  
Grand Secretary

