

David Stewart  
c/o Public Petitions Clerk  
Room T3.40  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

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22<sup>nd</sup> April 2014

Dear Dave

**PUBLIC PETITION PE1458 ON A REGISTER OF INTERESTS FOR MEMBERS OF SCOTLAND'S JUDICIARY**

Thank you for your letter of 6 March 2014 regarding the above Public Petition. I apologise for the delay in responding.

You ask whether the Scottish Government will review its position on whether members of the judiciary ought to register their interests. I note the evidence the Committee has gathered on this issue and, in particular, the arguments presented by the Judicial Complaints Reviewer (JCR) that a register of interests would increase transparency and public trust in the judiciary.

The JCR considers that there is merit in a register of interests for members of the judiciary. I do not think it necessary to establish such a register. I continue to be of the view that there are already sufficient safeguards in place to ensure the impartiality of the judiciary. These have been set out in previous correspondence and comprise the judicial oath, the Statement of Principles of Judicial Ethics and the rules made under the 2008 Act. I do not consider that the case has been made that these existing safeguards are not effective.

**KENNY MACASKILL**