



**PUBLIC PETITION NO.**

**PE01572**

### **Name of petitioner**

Parveen Haq

### **Petition title**

Occupational Disclosure in Trials and Sentencing

### **Petition summary**

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to change the law of evidence so that in cases where a person is tried for a crime that has no connection to his/her occupation, his/her occupation should be dealt with by the courts as an irrelevant and non-aggravating factor.

### **Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition**

I have contacted my local MP's and the ones who replied advised me that I should contact my local MSP's, as MP's could not help me.

I then contacted all the current Scottish MSP's and most of them have replied back saying that they cannot interfere in any judicial matter and are unable to help me. One of my local MSPs, Patricia Ferguson, sent me a link to this petition website.

I have contacted both Nicola Sturgeon MSP and Alex Salmond MSP via e-mail but they have both failed to respond back.

### **Petition background information**

I have done some research and discovered that police officers are given harsher sentences than civilians, no matter what the crime. I can understand this happening if a police officer uses his/her job to commit the crime but not if the crime has no connection to the occupation at all.

I have also spoken to MP's about this and have been told that no matter what the crime, police officers and lawyers are treated harshly in court. Is this fair? Are police officers and lawyers not human like everyone else? Are they not allowed to make mistakes?

I am putting this petition forward as I think that new laws should be introduced, which prevent people's occupation from being disclosed in a court of law, especially if the accusations have nothing to do with the occupation.

This country has made it so easy for anyone to accuse a police officer of anything and any accusation, whether true or false, often results in a stigma about the accused. Most domestic/civil matters don't even get as far as the courts, but if you are a police officer

or lawyer for example then they will get to court and the harshest sentence possible is given.

- Is this the way that we should treat people who we expect to protect us?
- Are all police officers and lawyers trustworthy until they themselves become the accused?
- Why are the courts filled with droves of police officers waiting to give evidence if they are liars?

My aim is to help people accused of an offence, such as police officers, lawyers, and others who hold a position of trust, in the future. Why should occupation of a person have any bearing on a domestic/civil allegation? If a case goes to court, a crime is a crime, whether you are a police officer, lawyer, or anyone else. Each crime should have the same sentencing and people should not be made an example of just because of the career path they took. Especially if that career has no connection to the accusations.

### Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/PE01572>

### Related information for petition

Please also visit this link to sign the petition: [www.gopetition.com/petitions/stop-harsh-convictions-in-court-due-to-occupation.html](http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/stop-harsh-convictions-in-court-due-to-occupation.html)

### Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

### How many signatures have you collected so far?

234

### Closing date for collecting signatures online

03 / 08 / 2015

### Comments to stimulate online discussion

I have spoken to a number of MP's and they all say that people who hold a position of trust such as police officers and lawyers are treated harshly in court for any conviction. What I want to know is: Why? Are they not human like everyone else?

This petition is in order that evidential law can be changed and when a case is taken to court, a person's occupation should not be revealed unless that occupation has been used as part of the crime.

A domestic issue has no relevance at all with any occupation, no matter what it is, but the punishment given is much higher if you are a police officer or a lawyer. Most domestic issues don't even reach court but apparently a police officer can be accused

of anything by anyone and the way they are treated is appalling.