

Cabinet Secretary for Justice
Michael Matheson MSP

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John Pentland Esq MSP
Convener, Public Petitions Committee
c/o Public Petitions Clerks
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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2nd September 2015

Dear John,

JURY RESEARCH - PETITION PE1562 (PERVERSE ACQUITTAL)

During consideration of the above petition, your Committee wrote to me asking not only for my views on the petition, but also on whether the Scottish Government will take forward the recommendation of the Bonomy Review that research be undertaken into jury reasoning and decision making.

In my letter of 20 May 2015 I said:

Given the complexity and scope of Lord Bonomy's recommendations, we intend to work with stakeholders during the remainder of the current Parliamentary session to develop and seek consensus on a package of proposals for criminal justice reform. We will also look into whether it would be feasible for any of Lord Bonomy's recommendations to be taken forward this year. We will consider jury research in that context.

In that letter I advised you that I would update your Committee on plans for jury research. Therefore I am now writing to advise you that my officials have had initial discussions with a range of interested parties, and I have decided to go ahead with jury research at this time. The Scottish Government will now consider the methodology of such research.

I am copying this letter to the Justice Committee.

MICHAEL MATHESON

cc: Christine Grahame MSP, Convener, Justice Committee

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