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Chic Brodie  
Deputy Convener  
Public Petitions Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP



Ur faidhle/Your ref: PE1457

20 June 2013

Dear Chic

## **PUBLIC PETITION PE1457 ON SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL TREE**

Thank you for your letter of 23 May about Public Petition PE1457 on Scotland's National Tree.

After the recent debate on this matter in Parliament and taking account of the comments from the Public Petitions Committee, I can confirm that we will now undertake our own consultation on the idea of designating a National Tree of Scotland. I intend to announce this tomorrow, at the Royal Highland Show

We are keen to hear what the people of Scotland think about having a national tree – and what their choice of tree would be. I want the consultation to reach as many people as possible, including for example school children.

I have asked Forestry Commission Scotland to organise the consultation, with input from Scottish Natural Heritage. I would envisage that the consultation will begin in September, and run for 3 months.

**PAUL WHEELHOUSE**

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