

PE1465/H

22nd October 2013

Chris Hynd
Committee Assistant
Public Petitions Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Vacant Land in Private Ownership (PE1465)

I would like to submit my reply to the Scottish Government's Response dated 18th October 2013.

I wish to express my disappointment with this response as it is not what I was expecting to hear. I still maintain the aforesaid act is incomplete and was conceived without giving full consideration of all the facts.

I would like to clarify a point in paragraph five of this response which says **'we also note that in the petitioners own evidence to the Committee on 19 February he stated that the planning authority have in fact entered at least one site on the estate and carried out work'**. The only reason the council did in fact maintain this area of land in the past was that it was originally communal land created when the estate was developed and arrangements were in place to allow this. However, this land had eventually been bought by a speculator who put a stop to this and refused to allow the council to maintain it so this statement in the Scottish Government's response does not enter the equation.

There is no way my local council is going to spend money looking after someone else's land when budgets are tight and I quite see their point. Landowners must be held accountable and I feel the Scottish Government have let local communities down on this issue. I have tried my best to fight on their behalf but it would appear that if it doesn't affect the bureaucrats directly they are just not interested. I think perhaps they should come along and visit locations such as these and be asked **'would you live next door to this'**.

I am still of the opinion that an amendment to the act giving the relevant council departments the power to prosecute for non-compliance.

Yours,

A Ivanov (Mr)