

25th September 2013

Stuart Todd
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
T3.40
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Mr Todd,

PUBLIC PETITION PE1481

Thank you for your letter of 20 June 2013 inviting the Construction Scotland Industry Leadership Group to comment on the above petition and apologies for not responding within your deadline.

Construction Scotland is the leadership organisation for the construction industry in Scotland. Recognised by the Scottish Government as the voice of the industry as a whole, we work with the public sector, federations and trade bodies to resolve issues for all of the industry. Whether we're investigating and promoting new market opportunities or driving economic growth, we aim to unite the industry and reduce fragmentation.

Our Industry Leadership Group comprises of individuals (as opposed to company/organisation representatives) from across the whole of the construction industry – from architecture to facilities management. Among other things, it is responsible for developing a forward looking, industry owned, strategy and identifying the actions required to deliver it and the respective roles of industry and Scottish Government.

Much work has been undertaken in recent years to improve and promote the image of the industry. The issue of blacklisting concerns a small number of businesses in only one part of what is a very broad industry.

Construction Scotland's position on blacklisting is clear. We are:

- Strongly opposed to discrimination within construction, both within the workplace and through procurement
- Fully supportive of a health and safety culture which encourages employees and stakeholders to raise health and safety concerns at all times

- Working with the public sector and industry bodies to improve the diversity of the Scottish construction workforce

A number of encouraging steps, such as the forthcoming Procurement Bill, have taken place to eradicate blacklisting and prevent these types of practices from occurring in the future within the Scottish construction industry.

We are aware of the UK Government's Scottish Affairs Committee current inquiry into "Blacklisting in Employment". In order to prevent any potential duplication of effort, the Construction Scotland Industry Leadership Group is of the view that the final recommendations from this inquiry should be considered before a decision on whether any further action is required is taken.

If any evidence of blacklisting is found in the Scottish construction industry, the Industry Leadership Group will work with its partners to abolish the practice and take steps to ensure such practices do not occur again.

In summary, the Construction Scotland Industry Leadership Group is of the opinion that a Scottish Government inquiry into the effects and extent of blacklisting in Scotland would be inappropriate at this time.

Please let me know if Construction Scotland can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Ed Monaghan
Chair
Construction Scotland Industry Leadership Group