



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

David Stewart  
Convener of the Public Petitions Committee  
By email

Equal Opportunities Committee  
Email: [equal.opportunities@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:equal.opportunities@scottish.parliament.uk)

15 May 2014

Dear David,

**Re: PUBLIC PETITION PE1513 ON EQUAL RIGHT FOR UNMARRIED FATHERS**

Thank you for bringing this petition to our attention.

During our inquiry we chose specifically to look at how the experiences of fathers might differ from the experiences of mothers, and there was very much a focus on social and professional support, as well as the need to recognise fathers as a key part of children's lives.

Although we heard from fathers who were both single and in relationships, we did not look directly the recording (or not recording) of fathers' names on birth certificates. We agreed that issues around shared residence and lack of contact with children related to judicial and reserved matters, and were therefore out with the scope of our inquiry.

Although the focus of the petition differs somewhat from that of our inquiry, it is likely that you will still find the recommendations contained within our report of interest. This is due to be published on Sunday 18 May, and I will ensure that this is brought to the attention of your Clerking team.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret McCulloch MSP  
Convener, Equal Opportunities Committee