

13 January 2015

Holyrood,
Scottish Parliament Building,
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

To whom it may concern

I watched BBC Scottish News this evening.

The matter of an official Scottish Anthem was raised, with the suggestion that “Flower of Scotland” may be a possible choice.

I wish to suggest that this would be an inappropriate choice – and for the following reasons:

1. Part of the sentiment it expresses refers to the past – and I suggest that the predominant thought of a new anthem should be to look forward
2. Part of the sentiment it expresses is anti English – and I suggest that the predominant thought of a new anthem should not be anti any other group, nation, race etc. – but should be for justice, equality, inclusion, promotion of what enriches the life of the nation and its relationship to other nations etc.
3. It is a dirge! I have sung it at Murrayfield and at the Commonwealth Games. It cannot compare with the inspiring and rousing anthems like La Marseillaise, the Welsh National anthem or the South African National Anthem – among many others.

I wish to support you if you are investigating this issue.

With best wishes,

Alan Garrity