

**PE1458/YY**

Submission by Peter Cherbi of 19 September 2016

**Response to Written Evidence from Professor Alan Paterson**

Given Professor Paterson's written comments on judicial interests, comparisons he provides with other jurisdictions, and particularly the Professor's comments and criticisms in relation to inadequacies in the current 'Recusals Register' <http://www.scotland-judiciary.org.uk/68/0/Judicial-Recusals> – a register which came into being as a direct result of this petition and, after a private meeting between the Lord President Lord Gill and members of the Petitions Committee, I suggest members invite Professor Paterson to give evidence before the committee.

I note Professor Paterson is of the mind a register including more than pecuniary interests may have a greater impact on judicial transparency than one solely limited to pecuniary interests. I am also supportive of this notion, as has also been expressed by members at previous Committee hearings and discussed in evidence sessions with Judicial Complaints Reviewers Moi Ali, Gillian Thompson OBE and former Lord President Lord Brian Gill.

In relation to the Lord President Lord Carloway's letter of 8 February 2016, and suggestions during earlier Committee hearings (prior to the summer recess) to invite the Lord President to give evidence, I ask members to invite the current Lord President to appear before the Petitions Committee and give evidence.

Further, I suggest members write to the current Judicial Complaints Reviewer – Gillian Thompson OBE, requesting a copy of the latest available JCR annual reports, and any further thoughts the current JCR may have on proposals to create a register of judicial interests.

Peter Cherbi