

Petitioner submission of 13 February 2024

PE1979/X: Establish an independent inquiry and an independent national whistleblowing officer to investigate concerns about the alleged mishandling of child safeguarding enquiries by public bodies

The Petitioners again thank the Committee for considering our petition and giving us the opportunity to speak directly to you. We also appreciate the consideration Members gave to the petition and the questions posed. We hope our opening statements and answers were informative.

As was recognised by the Committee, the public setting of the roundtable constrained discussion somewhat. Petitioners would therefore request a private session so that matters can be explored further by the Committee. The Petitioners had also hoped to discuss the gaps in the current SCAI (Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry) which we believed haven't previously been addressed by the Committee.

As previously mentioned, Petitioners don't believe it appropriate to investigate individual cases but do think a further less restricted discussion supports better scrutiny and decisions around the call of the petition.

Lastly, the Petitioners have given further thought to the questions posed and suggestions made by Members. Particularly, those put in relation to the setting up of an Independent National Whistleblowing Office (INWO) and the accountabilities and strains referred to. It's our intention to follow up on this with a further note to the Committee.

Best Regards

Alison Dickie, Christine Scott, Neil McLennan, Bill Cook