



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Local Government and Regeneration Committee

**Kevin Stewart MSP**  
**Convener**

Alex Neil MSP

Cabinet Secretary for Social  
Justice, Communities and  
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Scottish Government

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***By email only***

23 April 2015

Dear Alex

### **PETITION PE1534 – EQUAL RIGHTS OF APPEAL IN THE PLANNING SYSTEM**

On 27 January 2015 the Public Petitions Committee referred Petition PE1534, lodged by Clare Symonds on behalf of Planning Democracy, to the Local Government and Regeneration Committee. The petition calls on the Scottish Parliament—

“to urge the Scottish Government to review the current rights of appeal within planning and other consenting processes which give deemed planning consent, considering the benefits of widening the scope of appeal, and providing an equal right of appeal.”<sup>1</sup>

The Committee considered its approach to this petition at its meeting on 1 April 2015. The Committee agreed to write to you seeking the views of the Scottish Government on the current rights of appeal within planning and other consenting processes. The Committee also wishes to know if the Government has any plans to review these processes.

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<sup>1</sup> PE1534: <http://external.scottish.parliament.uk/gettinginvolved/petitions/PE01534>

I am aware that the Government provided views to the Public Petitions Committee during its initial consideration of this petition.<sup>2</sup> However, I would appreciate it if you could respond to the points raised by the Committee from our meeting on 1 April.<sup>3</sup>

The Committee agreed to decide what further action, if any, it would take on the petition following receipt of a reply from the Government. The Committee plans to review its work programme in early June, therefore, it would be helpful to have your response by the end of May 2015.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin', followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line.

Convener  
Local Government and Regeneration Committee

CC: John McNairney, Chief Planner, Scottish Government  
Clare Symonds, Planning Democracy (Petitioner)

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<sup>2</sup> Correspondence from the Scottish Government to the Public Petitions Committee 17 December 2014: [http://external.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_PublicPetitionsCommittee/General%20Documents/PE1534\\_C\\_ScottishGovernment\\_17.12.14.pdf](http://external.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_PublicPetitionsCommittee/General%20Documents/PE1534_C_ScottishGovernment_17.12.14.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Local Government and Regeneration Committee, Official Report 1 April 2015, Col 2: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9897&mode=pdf>