To the Clerk of the Public Petitions Committee
Re PE 1420

Further evidence requested for the meeting on the 17th April 2012

Kinship Care Allowance was introduced to give some financial support to family members (other than biological parents).

From Clackmannanshire Council figures there were 17 formal carers when the scheme was first introduced in 2007, there are now 82.

In January 2011 the Clacks Kinship Carers Committee conducted a piece of research which showed, from the 25 kinship carers who completed the questionnaire, there were:

- 19 in receipt of kinship carers allowance.
- 42 children who were looked after by kinship carers.
- 32 children whose kinship carers received a kinship carer allowance.
- 10 children whose carers did not receive a kinship carers allowance.

There are currently 54 kinship carers known to the Clacks Kinship Carers Group, some of whom are informal kinship carers and some who have a formal arrangement that includes the social work services in Clackmannanshire.

The extent of the hidden informal kinship carers that will be hard to quantify, maybe the Scottish Government could research this through CoSLA?

I hope this gives you some indication of the growing number of young lives affected by the loss of direct parenthood, and in their interest, the need for equity and esteem for kinship carers with foster carers.

Yours sincerely

Teresa McNally (Mrs)
Petitioner

See results of questionnaire below
Clacks Kinship Carers Questionnaire Response Results conducted in January 2011

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of responses</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In receipt of Kinship Carers Allowance</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of looked after children by kinship carers</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children whose carers receive kinship carer allowance</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children whose carers do NOT receive kinship allowance</td>
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