In light of the responses received from the Scottish Legal Complaints Commission (SLCC) it is apparent that the SLCC have acknowledged that there are serious flaws associated with the way in which the SLCC carry out their investigation process to the extent that they are prohibited from making available information relating to or publishing results of investigations into complaints.

This is not acceptable in this day and age where they can conduct their investigations in a clandestine manner. This is why we should have a fully accountable and transparent system where complaints received are investigated to a standard which is acceptable in other walks of life. Therefore, I would ask the petition committee to invite the CEO of the SLCC Neil Stevenson to give evidence to the Petitions committee on the points raised.

I would also ask the petition committee to ask the SLCC why individual cases concluded in favour of the complainant can be changed by a Senior Investigator without any correspondence with the complainant. This highlights a continued system of flawed investigation throughout this process.

The Law Society’s response is self-explanatory. They highlight major problems associated with the SLCC and forms of appeal against SLCC decisions being via the Court Of Session which in its self can only be described as bias. Major reform of this system needs to be addressed immediately to ensure that complainers are getting the Justice they deserve through a system that is transparent and accountable.

It is interesting to note that no response has been received from the Faculty Of Advocates when they are conjoined with the SLCC investigation process. I would ask the petition committee to write again to them for a response and I would ask the committee to invite the former Dean Of Faculty Mr Wolf who is now the Lord Advocate to give evidence to the petition committee.

I would ask the petition committee to write again to the Citizens Advice as their advice centres can be of paramount importance to complainers who cannot get access to legal representation.

Finally, I would ask the petition committee to invite my MSP Mr Alex Neil whose assistance has been invaluable to be invited to give evidence before the committee.