



Jackson Carlaw MSP
Convener
Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Wednesday 22nd October 2025

Dear Convener,

PE2085: Introduce a statutory definition of residency for Fatal Accident Inquiries into the deaths of Scots abroad

We are writing to you following a roundtable in the Scottish Parliament on Wednesday 8th October 2025 organised by Michael Marra MSP regarding Fatal Accident Inquiries into the deaths of Scots abroad.

At the event, we were joined by Scottish families whose loved ones had died abroad. We heard powerful testimony from Davy Cornock and Julie Love, who each suffered the tragic loss of their sons abroad. Mr Cornock and Ms Love shared their experience and explained how the trauma of losing a child was compounded by the lack of support or access to justice.

You will be aware that, since the Inquiries into Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths etc. (Scotland) Act 2016 was passed, no Fatal Accident Inquiries have been carried out into the death of any Scot abroad.

Data from the UK Government shows that, in England and Wales, between 200 and 400 inquests into deaths abroad have concluded in each year since 2016.

We believe that the lack of any Fatal Accident Inquiries into the deaths of Scots abroad since the Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths etc. (Scotland) Act 2016 was passed suggests that the legislation has not worked as intended.

Families who lost loved ones abroad, including Ms Love with the help of Bob Doris MSP, were involved in the legislative process and had hoped that this law would improve the process for families in similarly tragic circumstance.

We have collectively written as a group of cross-party Parliamentarians to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice & Home Affairs seeking her views on the operation of this legislation. We have copied this letter to the Lord Advocate and the First Minister. Given the relevance to Petition PE2085, we will keep the Committee informed of their responses.

With best wishes,

Michael Marra MSP
Liam Kerr MSP
Bob Doris MSP
Elena Whitham MSP
Jackie Baillie MSP
Katy Clark MSP

Martin Whitfield MSP
Douglas McAllister MP