Dear Lord Advocate

Petition PE1370: Justice for Megrahi

At its meeting on 22 September, the Committee considered petition PE1370 by Justice for Megrahi (JFM) calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to open an independent inquiry into the conviction of Abdelbaset Ali al-Megrahi for the bombing of Pan-Am flight 103 in December 1988.

The Committee agreed to keep the petition open. During its consideration, the Committee agreed to write seeking further information from you regarding the appointment of an independent Counsel to evaluate the report arising from Police Scotland’s ongoing "Operation Sandwood" investigation. Members would be particularly interested in knowing more about the appointment process itself, whether the person appointed is a current or former prosecutors with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service or is a practising lawyer in another jurisdiction, and what other measures or protocols have been put in place to guarantee the Counsel’s independence.

A transcript from the discussions is attached to this letter for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Christine Grahame MSP
Convener, Justice Committee