Dear Lord Advocate

Petition PE1370: Justice for Megrahi

At its meeting on 5 January 2016, 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.

During its consideration, the Committee agreed to keep the petition open and decided to write seeking further information regarding your response to JFM dated 24 December, which explains that Catherine Dyer will now function as the Crown Office point of contact.

JFM’s letter to the Committee dated 4 January 2016 (attached) questions this appointment on the grounds that Mrs Dyer’s involvement might undermine the independence of the crown counsel tasked with considering any findings of the Operation Sandwood team.

The Committee would be grateful if you could respond to the concerns raised by JFM and explain what procedures are in place to ensure an appropriate level of impartiality in instances where there have been complaints involving the COPFS’s handling of a case.

The Committee would appreciate a response by Friday 5 February 2016.

Yours sincerely

Elaine Murray MSP
Deputy Convener, Justice Committee