Dear Lord President,

**Petition 1458 – Proposal to establish a register of judicial interests**

I write regarding the above Petition which the Justice Committee considered on 19 November. After this evidence session and a previous one, the Committee is minded to support the principle behind the petition of a judicial register of interests as it has yet to hear a convincing case against.

The Committee thanks you for your letter of 23 August 2019 on this subject. However in light of the above, members agreed it wanted to give you the opportunity to relate your views, in person, as to why a register of judicial interests should not be established.

I should be grateful, therefore, if you would indicate whether you, or a representative of the Judicial Office, would be willing to give oral evidence on the petition in the New Year. If so, in order to move forward. I would be grateful if your officials would contact the Justice clerks to discuss a mutually convenient date.

Finally it would be extremely helpful if you would provide further details on your views of what would be involved in establishing such a register and whether this would require primary legislation or could be achieved by some other means through the powers that you have as Lord President.
I look forward to your response.

Best wishes,

Margaret Mitchell MSP
Convener, Justice Committee