



The Lord President

Parliament Square
Edinburgh, EH1 1RQ

20 December 2013

Ms Marieke Dwarshuis
Yew Tree Cottage
Old Whisky Road
Auchterhouse
DD3 0RD

Dear Ms Dwarshuis,

New Interim Advisory Committee on Administrative Justice and Tribunals

Thank you for your letter of 16 December.

I send you my congratulations and good wishes on your appointment to the chairmanship of the new Interim Advisory Committee. Much of the work of the Scottish Court Service Board and of the Scottish Civil Justice Council in 2014 will be devoted to the merger of the Courts Service with the devolved Tribunals Service. This will be a major project which I am confident will be beneficial to the Scottish Legal System.

The work of your Committee will be of great value. I hope that you will find your work enjoyable and fulfilling.

If you should happen to be in Edinburgh, I would be glad to have a short meeting with you at my office here. It should be possible to arrange a meeting at fairly short notice. My secretary is Liz Scott (0131 240 6732, lscott@scotcourts.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Brian Gill

The Right Honourable Lord Gill

Telephone 0131 240 6701

Fax 0131 240 6704

DX549306 Edinburgh 36

lppo@scotcourts.gov.uk



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Justice Committee

Marieke Dwarhuis
Yew Tree Cottage
Old Whisky Road
Auchterhouse
DD3 0RD

All correspondence c/o:
Justice Committee Clerks
Room T2.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Tel: 0131 348 5195

Textphone: 0800 092 7100

Fax: 0131 348 6467

justice.committee@scottish.parliament.uk

19 December 2013

New interim advisory committee on administrative justice and tribunals

Dear Ms Dwarhuis,

Thank you for your letter of 2 December regarding the establishment and remit of the new interim advisory committee on administrative justice and tribunals.

May I offer the Justice Committee's congratulations to you on your appointment as chair of the advisory committee. I also wish to pass on my personal best wishes to you in your new post.

I agree that the advisory committee has a vital role to play, especially given the changes due to take place in administrative justice and tribunals over the next couple of years.

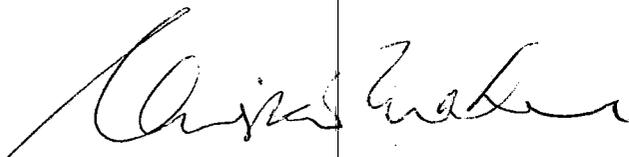
The Justice Committee is currently considering petition PE1449¹ which has relevance to the advisory committee. I would imagine, however, that the petition is one of many forthcoming pieces of work where the Justice Committee will welcome your committee's input.

¹ *Petition by Dr John Wallace Hinton on behalf of Accountability Scotland, calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to preserve an independent Scottish Administrative Justice Council when the UK AJTC system is abolished, ensuring the new body has a critical user-interface to enable base-roots input from the public and that it has complete independence from political or civil service influence.*

The Committee's agreed approach is to not accept invitations to meet with any stakeholders on an informal basis. For transparency, we prefer to engage with all stakeholders on the same basis, during formal evidence sessions.

Unfortunately, the Committee does not have the capacity to hold a formal evidence session with you in early 2014. However, you are very welcome to set out your committee's early priorities in writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine Grahame', written in a cursive style.

Christine Grahame MSP
Convener, Justice Committee