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Petition by Mr Thomas Minogue

Closed Petitions - Petition PE306

Petition calling for the Scottish Parliament to request that all members of the Judiciary declare membership of organisations such as Freemasons and that such a register be made available on request.

Petitioner: Mr Thomas Minogue

Number of signatures: 1

Date lodged: 27 November 2000

Summary:

19 December 2000 : The Public Petitions Committee agreed to seek comments from the Lord Advocate on the current legal situation within Scotland regarding declarations of interest and whether organisations such as freemasons are included in such declarations. The Committee also agreed to seek information on the current situation in England and Wales in relation to the issues contained in the petition.

27 February 2001 : The Public Petitions Committee agreed to defer consideration of the responses from Mr Jim Wallace and the Grand Lodge of Scotland until its next meeting on 13 March.

13 March 2001 : The Public Petitions Committee considered a response from the Scottish Executive and a letter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland and agreed to refer the petition and the related correspondence to the relevant Justice Committee for further consideration.

24 April 2001 : The Justice 2 Committee agreed to invite written evidence on the issues raised in the petition from the Scottish Consumer Council and the Sheriffs' Association.

23 May 2001 : The Justice 2 Committee considered written

evidence from the Sheriffs' Association; and the Scottish Consumer Council. It agreed to write to the Minister for Justice, asking him to consider whether the judiciary should be required to declare interests in the same way as members of public bodies will be required to do.

26 September 2001 : The Justice 2 Committee agreed to note the Minister's response and to revisit the possibility of declarations of interest by the judiciary as part of consideration of new judicial appointments procedures in due course.

30 October 2002 : The Justice 2 Committee considered petition PE306 by Mr Thomas Minogue on Freemasonry and the judiciary and agreed to write to the Minister for Justice seeking further clarification.

28 January 2003 : The Justice 2 Committee considered petition PE306 by Mr Thomas Minogue on Freemasonry and the judiciary. The Committee agreed to take no further action on this petition. However, if the petitioner was able to provide evidence of further specific cases where difficulties have arisen over the question of Sheriff/Judicial membership of the freemasons the Committee would consider revisiting the matter.

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