

Alison Johnstone MSP
Presiding Officer
The Scottish Parliament

By email to: Alison.Johnstone.msp@parliament.scot

2 May 2025

Dear Ms Johnstone

I write to you in my capacity as President of the Law Society of Scotland.

The Law Society of Scotland has an important statutory role which includes promotion of both the interests of the solicitors' profession in Scotland and those of the public in relation to the profession. We also have a specific duty to act in accordance with the constitutional principle of the rule of law and the interests of justice.

It is on that basis that we require to express our grave concern at public communications maligning members of the United Kingdom Supreme Court, in respect of that Court's recent judgement concerning a case raised in Scotland. Such behaviour endangers the very independence and integrity of the judiciary and cannot be tolerated.

Given your esteemed position as Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, I would respectfully request that you remind all Members of the Scottish Parliament of their important legal obligations to uphold the independence and integrity of our judiciary. Judges fulfil a longstanding and important constitutional role in upholding the rule of law and interpreting legislation enacted by the Scottish and UK Parliaments.

Section 1(1)(d) of the Judiciary and Courts (Scotland) Act 2008, under the heading "Guarantee of continued judicial independence" specifically states that MSPs must uphold the continued independence of the judiciary. Conduct that does not meet this legislative directive undermines the rule of law, and damages not just our courts but our entire legal system, including the Scottish Parliament. We urge all MSPs to actively support and promote Scotland's legal system, and to respect the independence of our judiciary within that system.



I look forward to your reply and would welcome dialogue with you on this highly important matter.

Yours sincerely

Susan Murray
President