

**PE1693/B**

Scottish Waterways Trust's submission of 26 October 2016

I refer to your letter dated 1 October 2018 sent on behalf of the Committee inviting views on the action called for in the petition.

The Scottish Waterways Trust exists to encourage activity on and around Scotland's canals, maximising the utilisation of this wonderful piece of our national industrial heritage. We do this through a range of activities designed to engage people and communities across the network, e.g. Canal College. Our focus is therefore on the use of the assets for these socio-economic purposes helping to deliver Inclusive Growth, and not on the navigation route, per se.

We are not convinced that an additional layer of regulation, through the establishment of an independent water ombudsman, would assist here and are of the view that the economic development of the asset base is one way of ensuring its longer term viability and therefore the success of our own activities.