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If calling please ask for
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Our Ref:
Your Ref:

Date: 4 May 2017

Dear Mr Hill

Which was also ignored

General Election

I have received your letter of 25 April 2017 and enclosure. I am advised that you wrote simultaneously and in similar terms to the Returning Officer based in Orkney. I have undertaken to respond as Depute Returning Officer since the terms of this correspondence is very similar to correspondence we in Shetland have had from you before in relation to previous elections.

Firstly I would say that "estoppel" is not a concept known to the laws of Scotland and suggest that you will have to take advice on that in the appropriate jurisdiction. It is unclear what the basis might be for any action you might have in mind and so it is also unclear whether that would be covered by insurance or even amount to an insurable interest. Primarily for that reason I do not intend to provide you with any of the insurance details you request. However, I would also add that the Returning Officer role is not carried out by a defined public body and so does not come within the ambit of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 or similar legislation

As regards the electoral districts of Orkney and Shetland the UK Parliament has defined the duties of election officials, and in particular returning officers, through the Representation of the People Act 1983 and amending legislation. These duties include the execution of the writ for a parliamentary general election. Breach of that duty by an election official without reasonable cause is an offence under that Act attracting a fine of £10,000 and you should be aware that for any other person to counsel, procure or incite the commission of such an offence renders that person(s) so doing liable to prosecution and the same fine.

I am confident that the Returning Officer will continue to discharge the duties placed upon him by parliament.

Yours sincerely


Jan Riise

Executive Manager – Governance & Law

Note he does not address any points - just distraction and a veiled threat. No explanation of how the election is legal.