

Nicola Sturgeon MSP  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP  
18<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you in disbelief of the article in today's newspapers about the possible demise of the **world famous Strathclyde Police Pipe Band**.

As a business based in Ayrshire, we were aware of the outrageous decision of **Chief Superintendent Anne McGuire to NOT ALLOW** the pipe band to play at the Glasgow Taxi outing to Troon, something the band has done every year, for over 60 years. What was the rationale for that, how can it be explained to the handicapped children why the band were not attending a great fun day out.

For her to now consider axing the band, beggars belief.

The public relations benefits of a band like this cannot be underestimated. People travel from all around the world to hear this band perform, as well as the many local charity events, like the taxi outing, that the band contributes to.

What better Public Relations could any organisation ask for, particularly Police Departments who can sometimes struggle around the world to uphold their image and community involvement.

We are a bagpipe maker who, even in these troubled financial times, is still growing in terms of employing people and exporting worldwide. It's the profile of our top pipe bands, like Strathclyde Police that helps our image as an industry, and as a nation.

That can't be underestimated, I hope the bigger picture will be viewed here.

It is a great service this band has done to the community and Pipe Band movement over the years, and it is my sincere hope that common sense prevails and we see the band remain at the top of the list, representing Scotland in the ever diminishing list of Scottish Bands in top Grade one International Competition.

I hope that you can, and will, be able to do something to stop this gross act of cultural vandalism against one of Scotland's musical icons.

Yours sincerely,

**Kenneth Macleod**  
**McCallum Bagpipes**