

# Margaret Ferrier

## SNP Candidate for Rutherglen and Hamilton West



Ann Le Blond

12<sup>th</sup> May 2017



Dear Ann,

### Rape Clause

Congratulations on your selection as the Conservative candidate for the Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency. I am writing to you today as the SNP candidate to ascertain your views on your party's so-called rape clause.

The SNP has led the opposition against Conservative welfare reforms – from cuts to the Employment and Support Allowance work-related activity group to the changes of the mobility component of Personal Independence Payments – and we will continue to do so after next month's General Election. The Conservative Party obsession with austerity has been to the severe detriment of the welfare system, and I find it incredulous that in order to cut the welfare bill your party has implemented the family cap and associated rape clause.

No woman should have to prove they were raped to receive tax credits. After suffering such a horrendous ordeal, it is disgusting that survivors should have to relive it.

By writing to you today, I am giving you the opportunity to set the record straight and stand up for the constituents of Rutherglen and Hamilton West by condemning this policy. Should you agree that the rape clause is pernicious and should be scrapped – agreeing with myself, my party, women's welfare groups, faith leaders, trade unions and child poverty campaigners – then I urge you to contact the Prime Minister and the leader of the Scottish Conservatives to make them aware of your views.

The people of Rutherglen and Hamilton West deserve a representative who will stand up against callous policies, not a cheerleader for the Prime Minister and her failed ideological austerity agenda.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Ferrier".

MARGARET FERRIER  
SNP candidate for Rutherglen and Hamilton West