We, the undersigned, Officers of Court, as Partners and individual employees of Messrs. George Walker & Co., Messengers-At-Arms and Sheriff Officers, are deeply concerned to note that within the Bankruptcy and Diligence in Scotland draft bill and consultation paper at Part 2 - Diligence - Chapter 1 - Enforcement - section 35 (3) it is stated that "The offices of Messenger-At-Arms and Sheriff Officer are abolished."

We also note that at section 35 (1) all Messengers-at-Arms and Sheriff Officers are to be known as "Court Enforcement Officers."

We are unanimous in our opinion that this proposed title is unacceptable as it does not accurately describe our profession, is misleading to the public, could be construed as confrontational by the public and all of us who are at the 'sharp end of diligence.'

We believe that the title "Messenger-at-Arms," with all its historical background and association with the Lyon Court, should be retained and that if the Executive wish to abolish the name "Sheriff Officer" we would refer the Executive to the definition of "Officer of Court" as illustrated at Section 106 of the Debtor's (Scotland) Act, 1987 which means a "Messenger-At-Arms or a Sheriff Officer."

We, therefore, petition and crave that:

The offices of Messenger-At-Arms and Sheriff Officer be retained, failing which those charged and Commissioned to execute citation and diligence emanating from the Supreme Court of Scotland and the Sheriff Courts be known as - "Officers of Court."

(Sgd) -William Dolier, -Messenger-at-Arms and Sheriff Officer;
Brian Johnston, Messenger-at-Arms and Sheriff Officer,
William Wright, Sheriff Officer,
Andrew Fraser, Sheriff Officer,
David Walker, Messenger-at-Arms and Sheriff Officer,
James Walker, Sheriff Officer,
Ian Bishop, Messenger-at-Arms and Sheriff Officer,
Bryan McNamara, Messenger-at-Arms and Sheriff Officer,
Christopher Bell, Messenger-at-Arms and Sheriff Officer - Glasgow Office,
Angus Mackinnon, Messenger-at-Arms and Sheriff Officer,
Thomas Hamilton, Messenger-at-Arms and Sheriff Officer,
Colin Gowrie, Messenger-at-Arms and Sheriff Officer,
David Hynd, Messenger-at-Arms and Sheriff Officer - Hamilton Office.
Stuart Hamilton, Messenger-at-Arms and Sheriff Officer,
Douglas Barr, Messenger-at-Arms and Sheriff Officer,
Paul Miller, Sheriff Officer - Paisley Office,
Roderick Stevenson, Messenger-at-Arms and Sheriff Officer,
Chris Andrew, Messenger-at-Arms and Sheriff Officer, - Kirkcaldy Office,
David Smith, Messenger-at-Arms and Sheriff Officer, - Kilmarnock Office,
Allan Hamilton, Messenger-at-Arms and Sheriff Officer - Dumbarton Office,
John Scott - Messenger-at-Arms and Sheriff Officer - Oban Office.