

## **P94 Conviction and pardon of William Waiters**

### **RECORDS' IDENTITY STATEMENT**

Reference number:	P94
Alternative reference number:	
Title:	Conviction and pardon of William Waiters
Dates of creation:	1836-1837
Level of description:	Fonds
Extent:	4 sheets
Format:	Paper

### **RECORDS' CONTEXT**

Name of creators:

Administrative history:

William Waiters was aged 46 in 1836 and was an army pensioner, having formerly served 29 years in the 30th Regiment of Foot. Discharged from the army in 1828 because of chronic rheumatism, he came to live at Kirk in Bower parish. In 1836 he was accused of committing an act of forgery against George Dunbar of Ackergill Tower, by forging signatures of two of his acquaintances and requesting payment from George Dunbar. He was arrested and tried at the Inverness Circuit Court on 22 or 23 September 1836, convicted, and sentenced to transportation for life.

In November 1836 he was granted a royal pardon, by which his sentence was reduced to transportation for 7 years. A request for further clemency was rejected by Lord Russell in March 1837, but an appeal was signed by 36 prominent men of the county including the Minister of Bower, the provost and magistrates and councillors of Wick and other inhabitants of Caithness, and on 31 October 1837 William Waiters received a full pardon.

The grounds for the appeal were that the prisoner had no intention to defraud, that he was subject to temporary fits of insanity owing to a head injury received on military service, that he had a wife and 4 children under six years to support, and

that his health had deteriorated while in prison.

Custodial history:

## RECORDS' CONTENT

Description: Letters regarding the conviction of William Waiters for forgery, and his transportation sentence

Appraisal:

Accruals:

## RECORDS' CONDITION OF ACCESS AND USE

Access: open

Closed until:

Access conditions: Available within the Archive searchroom

Copying: Copying permitted within standard Copyright Act parameters

Finding aids: Available in Archive searchroom

## ALLIED MATERIALS

Related material:

Publication:

Notes:

Date of catalogue: September 2011

Ref.	Description	Dates
<b>P94</b>	<b>Conviction and pardon of William Waiters</b>	<b>1836-1837</b>
P94/1	Letter from J. Stephen, law agent, Edinburgh to the Chief Magistrate, Wick, stating that William Waiters convicted of forgery at the last Circuit Court at Inverness, has just received a royal pardon, so that his sentence is commuted from transportation for life, to transportation for 7 years "to New South Wales, or Van Dieman's Land, or some one or other of the Islands adjacent thereto" [1 sheet]	4 Nov 1836
P94/2	Letter on behalf of Lord John Russell [Home Secretary] to William Bruce, Wick, stating that he	4 Mar 1837

	cannot recommend William Waiters “who is confined in Wick Gaol” to His Majesty for any further extension of the Royal Mercy [1 sheet]	
P94/3	Letter from William Anderson, Perth, to Mr Bruce, merchant, Wick, regarding travelling to Perth for the forthcoming election and “Mr Maule’s success” [1 sheet]	22 Jul 1837
P94/4	Letter from William Waiters, “in Bonds”, Wick Gaol, to William Bruce, Provost of Wick, regarding the risk of his being removed for transportation along with any other prisoners sentenced to be transported at the next Circuit Court, and referring to a petition on his behalf “pleading my inability and long confinement in this prison” [1 sheet]	2 Sep 1837