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**From:** Andrew.Hill@aberdeenshire.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 09 September 2004 12:47  
**To:** info  
**Cc:** Gerald.Moore@aberdeenshire.gov.uk; janerob@scottishmuseums.org.uk  
**Subject:** Cultural entitlement - a view from the North East[Scanned]

FAO - James Boyle Esq., Chair of Cultural Commission

Dear James,

Having taken on board that the consultation is what we are going to do, - a few broad headings/thoughts generated by yesterday's meeting, before they are forgotten.

Cultural entitlement = improved self-worth, self-respect - we are all valuable; with that comes maybe the realisation of how we can contribute to social responsibility/ duty/ obligation = neighbourliness and common weal - As JFK said "Don't ask what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country !"

What should folk be entitled to - and the core funding to deliver those entitlements:-

accessible venues - a museum (to Registration standard) for each community over 10,000 people; this threshold figure may be less in rural areas where distances are a disincentive - "Scotland is the sum of 12 cultural regions" (Prof.Fenton) we need solutions for rural as well as urban areas, the two are not necessarily identical, the emphases may need to be different.

professional Curatorial expertise (Associate of Museum Association would be a logical definition of professional) both via Council direct provision and as Travelling Curators to support/encourage/mentor the independent museum sector (Prof. Fenton developed such a scheme 1970s to 1980s - Ross Noble of Kingussie/Newtonmore Highland Folk Park fame, and myself were both TCs); Miles Committee defined adequacy in 1986 and to my knowledge nobody has come up with anything better since -it would at least be a starting point.

an opportunity to become involved in the recording of their own history e.g. BBC's WWII Veterans reminiscences  
comparative benchmarking information already collected by SLAM - people need information to generate improvement locally and nationally

Recognition of living or late people who make or made a difference to our cultural life (as per Japan):-

Peer group assessed representing all walks of life not just military,royal, political, commercial but cultural too  
Who might be considered from the North East ? - e.g. Prof. Alexander Fenton of Auchterless - the Father of Scottish Ethnology, the late Dr. David Murison of Fraserburgh - Editor of the Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue, the late Bill Gibb of New Pitsligo, Hughie Jones Resident Weaver Knockando Wool Mill, Annie Lennox etc.  
how might they be known - Hon. Scot. standing for "Honoured Scot" - or a "Scottie" for short - emblem Aberdeen Terrier or scottie which well-represents Scottish personality too - loyal but sparky!

On that light note, - thank you for everything you are doing - it was a pleasure to meet you yesterday.

Kind regards,

Andrew.

c.c. Jane Robinson -Assistant Director -SMC Lead Officer viz.SPIs

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----- Forwarded by Andrew Hill/E&R/Abdnshire on 09/09/2004 11:49 -----

Andrew Hill

02/09/2004 14:43

To: info@culturalcommission.org.uk  
cc: Gerald

Moore/E&R/Abdnshire@Abdnshire

Subject: Circular e-mailed by Scottish

Museums Council 24th August 2004

FAO- James Boyle Esq., Chair of Cultural Commission.

Dear James,

Thank you for the invitation to submit quick responses to the questions put in your letter. I will make a point of doing so, subsequent to your meeting with Aberdeenshire cultural officers, including myself, on Wednesday 8th Sept.

In case I don't have the opportunity on the day, can I say that as a professional curator since 1981, and having worked in the local authority sector for 20 years (including serving on the SMC Board of Directors 1996-2002), the key problem to releasing the potential of the museum sector is core funding.

You will I'm sure be acquainted with the SMC Response to the Scottish Executive Aug 2003, which highlighted in the Executive Summary the fundamental issue of core funding. What you may not know is that this same deficiency was highlighted almost 20 years ago by the Miles Report (Museums in Scotland), which was conducted by Museums & Galleries Commission in 1986. Incidentally, Prof. Miles' Committee did define what adequacy meant:- A district council should not commence a museum service without at least £100,000 revenue p.a., which was to cover the cost of employing at least two curators per district, plus technical & clerical support. This recommendation was not acted upon in North East Scotland and that legacy still holds back Aberdeenshire Heritage today.

Regards,  
Andrew.

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