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From: Andrew.Hill@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Sent: 02 September 2004 14:44
To: info
Cc: Gerald.Moore@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Subject: Circular e-mailed by Scottish Museums Council 24th August 2004[Scanned]

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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