



20 JAN 2005

Historic Houses Association for Scotland

10th January 2005

Karen Watson
Cultural Commission
Broughton High School
Carrington Road
Edinburgh EH4 1EG

Dear Ms Watson:

Cultural Commission Consultation – Second Phase

The Historic Houses Association for Scotland (HHA) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the phase of the Cultural Commission's public consultation. The background information submitted in our response dated 27th September 2004 to the first phase consultation refers and will not be repeated here.

This time you have asked for comments on both the practical development and use of cultural rights and the institutional infrastructure and the balance of responsibilities for planning, delivery and evaluation at national and local level.

Cultural Rights

As we said in our Phase One response, we have difficulty with the concept of cultural rights. We would prefer to use cultural "opportunities" to describe the availability of access to all aspects of Scottish culture by all sectors of the population. We do not believe the use of the word "right" to be appropriate.

Institutional Infrastructure

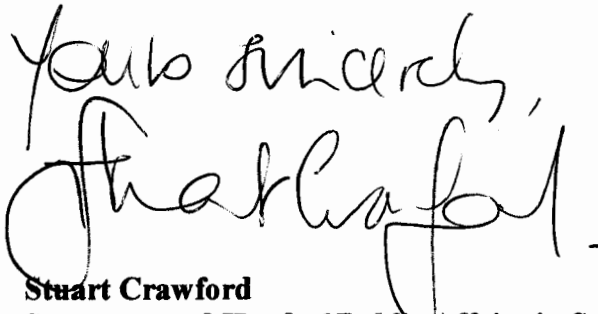
The institutional infrastructure within which the HHA operates in Scotland – the built architectural heritage sector - is broadly defined by the responsibilities and remit of Historic Scotland, VisitScotland and the local authorities. Within these boundaries a plethora of other organisations operate to varied but usually complementary agendas – HEACS, HERTS, BEFS, and ADS to name but a few. It could be argued that the institutional infrastructure is unnecessarily complex, although it is probably reasonably well understood by those organisations which operate within it. Perhaps

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the Cultural Commission might consider whether some rationalisation here would be appropriate and, more importantly, feasible.

We hope you find these comments useful.

Yours sincerely,


Stuart Crawford
Secretary and Head of Public Affairs in Scotland

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