

Tuesday, 5 September 2006.

Dear Editor,

Angus Macdonald (letters, 5 September) raises some points in his letter on Castle Tioram I would like to correct. Historic Scotland has not refused consent to Anta Estates. There is no application in front of us. What has been issued is a letter of guidance, such as we commonly give to owners who wish to explore possible proposals for their properties. Our letter is based on established policy, and on a new assessment of the cultural significance of Castle Tioram. When considering Scotland's nationally important monuments, Castle Tioram must be regarded as of particular importance for understanding the nation's history.

Nor is it the case that we were outbid for the castle in 1997. We withdrew our bid when a local community group called the Clanranald Castle Tioram Trust put forward a bid. This group was outbid by Anta Estates.

Our letter makes clear that we would like to see the castle repaired and conserved, and regular public access established. We have again offered Anta Estates grant funding for these purposes. We believe that the castle would then be a real long-term asset to the local community. We are keen to meet with the owners of the castle to take this forward and we welcome the support of Councillor Foxley, who represents the area on Highland Council, in his offer to facilitate these next steps.

Anybody who wishes to read for themselves the statement of cultural significance, the Historic Scotland board papers and the guidance letter issued to Anta Estates, should go to [www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/castletioram](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/castletioram)

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