

22 September 2009

Victoria Murray  
Historic Scotland  
Longmore House (G55D)  
Salisbury Place  
EDINBURGH  
EH9 1SH

Dear Ms Murray

**The Implementation of the Removal of the Duty of Planning Authorities to Notify Historic Scotland on Certain Types of Listed Building Consent Application**

Thank you for you the opportunity to respond to the above consultation paper.

A global organisation, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) is the principal body representing professionals employed in the land, property and construction sectors. In Scotland, we represent over 10,000 members comprising chartered surveyors (MRICS or FRICS), technical surveyors (AssocRICS), trainees and students. Our members practise in sixteen land, property and construction markets and are employed in private practice, central and local government, public agencies, academic institutions, business organisations and non-governmental organisations.

**General Comments**

RICS Scotland is supportive of the measures outlined in the consultation document, as the results of the pilot programme suggested, that changes would allow Historic Scotland's resources to be directed at the more significant proposals involving listed buildings and hopefully, will lead to quicker decision making by planning authorities.

Appropriate and up to date local plan policies and the availability of necessary expertise are critical to the effectiveness of the scheme. It is important that arrangements with authorities who sign up to the scheme are monitored, particularly in the initial stages of implementation, to ensure that it is effective.

It is also important that the arrangement does not preclude the involvement of Historic Scotland as an expert body should an applicant consider that they are not being treated fairly.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully



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