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V. Murray

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By Email (victoria.murray@gsi.gov.uk) & Post

Dear Ms Murray

REPRESENTATION TO THE CONSULTATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REMOVAL OF THE DUTY OF PLANNING AUTHORITIES TO NOTIFY HISTORIC SCOTLAND ON CERTAIN TYPES OF LISTED BUILDING CONSENT APPLICATION

I write to submit a formal representation to the above Historic Scotland consultation document which discusses the implementation of the removal of the duty of planning authorities to notify Historic Scotland on certain types of listed building consent application.

As planning consultants, WYG Planning and Design has acted as the agent for a wide range of applications requiring listed building consent. In our experience, the requirement to notify Historic Scotland on these applications has, in many cases, significantly slowed down their determination and we, therefore, welcome these proposals.

Entry Criteria

While WYG supports the proposals to remove the duty to notify Historic Scotland on certain applications, it must be noted, that the process adopted needs to be clear and transparent and that local authorities must be trained on the new approach. This will ensure that there is no overlap, and that each relevant party is aware of the demands of their new role.

The suggestion in **Paragraph 28** of the implementation of training for planning authorities by Historic Scotland and planning authority conservation staff will be an essential element of the transition. Furthermore, we are in agreement with the terms set out in **Paragraph 30**, which demonstrate the minimum requirements that planning authorities must achieve before they would be able to sign up to any future scheme.

Scope of Application Types Included

Schedule 1 is an extensive list which clearly defines those applications for listed building consent which will not be required to be notified to Historic Scotland. While WYG recognise the potential value in changing the list to be determined by exception rather than inclusion, we do not feel that this would be appropriate in this instance. In order to make the system as clear and transparent as possible, it is essential to ensure that planning authorities have a simple point of reference from which to determine whether an application needs to be referred to Historic Scotland. If this is not

available, there is the potential for confusion which could significantly slow down the process of determining applications. This would not be a sustainable situation and, therefore, we are of the opinion that **Schedule 1** should remain in its current form.

Monitoring the Scheme

It is essential that planning authority decisions are monitored to ensure that the new scheme is proving effective and fair. It is considered appropriate that during the formative stage of the new system, all planning authority decisions are monitored. This requirement could be relaxed after this initial period, of say 6no. months, beyond which it may only be necessary to monitor a representative sample of applications.

Review

It is important to measure the overall performance of planning authorities at least quarterly to ensure that they are determining listed building consent applications efficiently and fairly. In a similar manner to the above, it may be that this requirement can be relaxed after the initial formative stage, however early in the process regular reviews will be essential.

As discussed above, WYG support the principle of giving planning authorities sole responsibility to issue listed building consent for more straightforward applications. As mentioned, however, it is imperative that training is delivered to local authorities on how to approach the new arrangements and extensive monitoring will be required, at least in the early stages. In addition, it will be important to ensure that planning authorities who do not meet the necessary standards, will have their right to make these decisions, revoked.

I trust you will take this representation into consideration when deciding on the best course of action and how to organise the scheme in the future. WYG Planning and Design would be happy to be involved in any workshops or further consultation exercise as part of this ongoing process.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries or wish to discuss.

Yours sincerely



Kathryn Hume
DEVELOPMENT PLANNER
For and on behalf of WYG