

Buidheann-stiùiridh Cultair, Turasachd agus Mòr-thachartasan

Culture, Tourism and Major Events Directorate

Roinn a' Chultair agus Àrainneachd Eachdraidheil
Culture and Historic Environment Division



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Mr Sam Doohan

Ar faidhle/Our ref :2019/0012878
29th May 2019

Dear Mr Doohan,

Thank you for your email, dated 26th April 2019, to Mr Stewart, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning. I have been asked to respond as Policy and Sponsorship Officer for the Scottish Government.

I note your points regarding the building consent processes. You may be aware that on 1st May 2019 the Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS) was formally adopted, replacing the existing Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement (HESPS).

The new Historic Environment Policy for Scotland is a strategic policy document for the whole of the historic environment and is underpinned by detailed Historic Environment Scotland policy and guidance. HEPS contains policies and core principles that set how the historic environment should be managed and looked after. It informs the day-to-day work of a range of organisations that have a role and interest in managing the historic environment. HEPS is a material consideration in the Scottish planning system and will help guide and inform decision-making for local authorities and others.

The new Policy responds to public and stakeholder views and represents a new approach. It provides a policy framework for the management of the whole historic environment in Scotland and facilitates the delivery of Our Place in Time, Scotland's historic environment strategy.

The new policy is accompanied by Designation Policy and Selection Guidance and Scheduled Monument Consents Policy and is supplemented by Managing Change in the Historic Environment guidance, specifically two new notes on Demolition of Listed Buildings and The Use and Adaptation of Listed Buildings. To ensure that HES' procedural advice and information is up to date, the Historic Environment Circular has also be revised.

Interim guidance for two specific areas has been produced – on the Designation of Conservation Areas and Conservation Area Consent and the Principles of Listed Building

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Consent. These interim editions repeat the guidance on these topics that was set out in HESPS. A short training film is available through Historic Environment Scotland's website and social media channels.

I hope this goes some way to assuage your concerns.

Kind regards,

Becki MacPherson
Policy and Sponsorship Officer