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Dear Sirs

Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement: A Consultation

Thank you for seeking our views on the Scottish Government's Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement. I offer views on behalf of Historic Environment Scotland, the lead public body established to investigate, care for and promote Scotland's historic environment.

We welcome the preparation of this statement. In terms of the content of the Vision and Principles, we do not seek any amendments to these but would offer the following comments on how our work supports the aspirations of the statement. Our responses to relevant consultation questions have been submitted through the consultation website as well as repeated here.

Question 1: Have we captured the range of policy areas to which you think the land rights and responsibilities statement should be relevant?

Yes. We welcome the recognition of the interaction between land rights and responsibilities and the historic environment. The acknowledgment of the relationship between the statement and Our Place in Time: The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland is also welcomed.

Question 6: Do you agree with Principle 3 of the Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement?

Yes. Historic Environment Scotland has an important enabling role in encouraging community use of the historic built environment including specific legislative responsibilities under the Community Empowerment Scotland Act (2015). We are currently consulting on an interim policy on how we will facilitate Asset Transfer under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and have recently published our Register of Assets in line with the Act. We can also help local communities to understand their rights and offer guidance and expertise on the ownership and management of historic buildings.

Question 8: Do you agree with Principle 5 of the Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement?

Yes. We are committed to open data for the historic environment through such avenues as our contribution to Scotland's Environment Web, our various mapping tools and the publication of our Register of Assets in line with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

We hope this is helpful. Please contact us if you have any questions about this response. The contact person is Andrew Stevenson and he can be contacted by phone on 0131 668 8960 or by email on andrew.stevenson2@hes.scot.

Yours sincerely

ALEX PATERSON