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Date: 21 April 2010  
Our Ref: IHBC/03/10/RC  
Your Ref:



Ms Annette Stuart  
Chief Medical Officer and Public Health Directorate  
Public Health Division, Health Protection Team  
St Andrew's House, Regent Road  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Richard Cartwright  
IHBC Scotland  
Consultations Secretary  
c/o NLC Environmental Services  
Fleming House,  
Cumbernauld G67 1JW  
[www.ihbc.org.uk](http://www.ihbc.org.uk)

Dear Madam,

### **CONSULTATION ON *Death Certification, Burial and Cremation***

The Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) is the professional body of the United Kingdom representing conservation specialists and historic environment practitioners in the public and private sectors. The Institute exists to establish the highest standards of conservation practice, to support the effective protection and enhancement of the historic environment, and to promote heritage-led regeneration and access to the historic environment for all.

The Scottish Branch of the Institute welcomes the opportunity to comment on this consultation paper and has the following comments to make on the document. These comments are restricted to the built heritage implications of the consultation.

#### Paragraph 77

On *Question 22*, the IHBC agrees with the recommendations made in Paragraph 77, particularly on the importance of mason accreditation and guarantees.

On *Question 23*, the fact that work to memorials or headstones will require Listed Building Consent where a listed structure is involved, should be highlighted.

#### Paragraph 83

The IHBC welcomes this paragraph which encourages Local Authorities to develop conservation strategies for their historic graveyards. It would be helpful to append a model strategy or Code of Good Practice, or at least to outline what should be covered in such a strategy. There is a growing problem of graveyards falling into decay, and issues of health and safety of headstones, access and upkeep regimes need to be addressed.

#### Paragraph 84

- We support the first sentence on consulting with appropriate bodies.
- We note the references to the superceded SPP23, which need updating.
- We note and strongly disagree with the 4<sup>th</sup> sentence which attempts to give a summary of the key elements of the Scottish Government's policy for the historic environment, as follows: *"The key elements are: encouraging a positive and proactive approach to managing change in the historic environment; enabling development and securing best viable use; and ensuring the special qualities of the historic environment are protected, conserved and enhanced."*

The Institute of Historic Building Conservation considers that the last of the three points above must come first in any summary of policy for the historic environment- certainly ahead of enabling development!

- We note the final sentence states that “*Historic Scotland has produced a number of documents with guidance on the maintenance, care and protection of burial grounds and carved stones including gravestones*” and consider that any relevant HS guidance documents should be listed out prominently in the final Government paper.

Paragraph 85

The IHBC welcomes this paragraph which addresses selective re-use of graves and associated memorials.

Paragraph 90

On Question 36, the IHBC agrees that burial records should be stored electronically.

The Scottish Branch of the Institute would be grateful if you could consider these points in the final Government proposals .

Yours sincerely,

Richard Cartwright  
Scottish Consultations Secretary  
Institute of Historic Building Conservation

## RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note That This Form **Must** Be Returned With Your Response To Ensure That We Handle Your Response Appropriately

### 1. Name/Organisation

**Organisation Name** INSTITUTE OF HISTORIC BUILDING CONSERVATION (IHBC)

**Title** Mr  
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### 3. Permissions

I am responding as... Organisation

(a) Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?

**Yes**

(c) The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site).

(b) Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis

Are you content for your **response** to be made available?

**Please tick ONE of the following boxes Please tick as appropriate**

**Yes, make my response, name and address all available**

(d) We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

**Please tick as appropriate Yes**