



· INSTITUTE · OF · HISTORIC ·
BUILDING · CONSERVATION

Making Heritage Work

Daniel Harrison
Climate and Energy: Strategy and
Public Sector Division
Defra
Ergon House
Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 2AL

James Caird
Consultant Consultations Co-ordinator

Glebe House
Caynham
Ludlow
Shropshire
SY8 3BN

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Tel (01584) 876141
Web site www.ihbc.org.uk
E-mail consultations@ihbc.org.uk

Dear Sir

CONSULTATION ON THE PROMOTION OF ENERGY END-USE EFFICIENCY AND ENERGY SERVICES

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 Institute welcomes the opportunity to comment on the consultation.

The Institute has suggestions concerning Options (e) and (f) of Annex VI and Question 10.

Public Sector bodies frequently own and use historic buildings and other heritage assets. While there is often a significant opportunity for the energy efficiency of such property to be improved, there are also cases in which this would adversely affect the historic interest of the property. In most cases optimum results can be achieved when a reasonable balance is struck between the historic value of the property and energy efficiency interests.

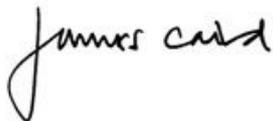
The Institute would like to suggest, therefore, that in any Guidance to accompany the implementation of Article 5 should:

- In relation to option (e), point out that, appropriately handled, historic property can be retrofitted with energy-saving systems.
- In relation to option (f), point out that the best outcome for energy saving is not necessarily the best outcome for historic property and that techniques that would degrade the character and appearance and/or the integrity of its structure and finishes should be avoided.

- In either case, targets and monitoring of Article 5 implementation should not presume that historic property will have any specific contribution to make as this could result in inappropriate action being taken just to meet targets.
- In relation to Question 10, there is a clear need for competent advice. The Institute would be pleased to assist with this in conjunction with English Heritage and other agencies.

Otherwise, the Institute supports the broad thrust of the consultation.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Caird". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'J'.

James Caird
Consultant Consultations Co-ordinator