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Our ref: AMH/90254/1 Pt 19

10 May 2007

Dear Mr Sanders

**ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979  
APPLICATION FOR SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT: ROWALLAN  
(OLD) CASTLE, EAST AYRSHIRE**

I refer to your application on behalf of Mr Campbell (the applicant) for scheduled monument consent dated 31 August 2006 for the conservation and restoration of the scheduled monument known as Rowallan (Old) Castle to ensure habitable use.

In terms of Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, before determining whether or not to grant scheduled monument consent the Scottish Ministers must provide the applicant with the opportunity to appear before and be heard by a person appointed for that purpose. The right to a hearing can also be extended to any other person whom the Scottish Ministers consider has an interest.

To enable the applicant to decide whether or not to exercise his statutory right to a hearing, which would normally take the form of a public local inquiry, I can advise that on the basis of the information at present available and the advice given to the Scottish Ministers, **they are minded to refuse scheduled monument consent for the conservation and restoration of the monument to ensure habitable use for the following reasons:**

Rowallan Castle is of national significance and illustrates an approach to lairdly domestic architecture that is not known to survive with quite this combination of elements elsewhere in Scotland. It has very few closely comparable peers when all of its salient characteristics are taken into account.

The works cannot be considered to be the minimum necessary to secure the long-term preservation of the monument and there are a number of associated risks which would threaten its significance. Further, there are no exceptional circumstances which would justify the intervention entailed





by the works proposed in the application. These proposals would, therefore, be contrary to Scottish Executive policy.

If the applicant wishes to exercise his statutory right to a hearing as set out above, a request for a hearing should be made within 28 days of the date of this letter. Alternatively, instead of a hearing the applicant may wish to submit written representations in support of the application.

If I do not have a reply from you or your client within 28 days either requesting a hearing or making written representations, the Scottish Ministers shall proceed to a final determination of the matter and their decision will be notified to you and your client.

A form of reply and a pre-paid self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your use.

Yours sincerely

**DONNA STEWART**

Copy to:

Mr Niall Campbell, Rowallan Castle  
The Scottish Parliament Petitions Committee  
Mr Peter Bromley, Properties in Care Group, Historic Scotland  
Dr Carol Swanson, Local Authority Archaeologist  
Mrs Jennifer Marshall, Monument Warden, Historic Scotland

