



Your Ref:
Our Ref: AS/SB/gjh
Contact: Angela Scott
Location: Marischal College

Date: 24 January 2020

Alex Paterson
Chief Executive
Historic Environment Scotland
Longmore House
Salisbury Place
EDINBURGH
EH9 1SH

Email: alex.paterson@hes.scot

Dear Mr Paterson

Proposal to List Inner-City Multi-Storeys, Aberdeen

Case IDs:

300030647 (1-75 Gilcomstoun Land)

300030683 (1-72 Porthill and 1-126 Seamount Courts and shop units 152-158 Gallowgate)

300030684 (1-48 Virginia Court and 1-108 Marischal Court)

300030688 (1-126 Thistle Court)

300030690 (1-140 Hutcheon Court and 1-144 Greig Court)

I write regarding the above proposals to list eight multi-storey buildings across five sites in Aberdeen City Centre.

My officers, representing both Strategic Place Planning and Corporate Landlord, are responding to your consultation separately in their capacity as planning authority and property landlord respectively. They have outlined in their respective responses the challenges that listing the buildings in question will present for the local authority.

Notwithstanding these responses, the Council's Capital Programme Committee on 22nd January 2020 discussed an urgent note of motion regarding the proposed listing. The Committee resolved to instruct me to write to you on their behalf to make it clear that the elected members are opposed to the proposal to list the buildings.

The proposed listing places a burden on the local authority and our tenants in terms of finance, maintenance and future flexibility around delivering affordable housing of an appropriate quality in the city. Our Corporate Landlord has outlined some of these issues and offered to work with you to understand the risks, challenges and how to address them collectively prior to making a final decision on listing. I would consider this to be an appropriate course of action which would

offer the opportunity for further engagement with owners, tenants and the city once the impact of those issues were clearly understood and quantified.

Our elected members also have concerns over the process of listing, where Historic Environment Scotland is solely responsible for accepting the case, assessment and subsequent decision-making. Indications from your officers when meeting with elected members last week were that the consultation procedure will not influence the outcome and final decision on listing, which is at the sole discretion of your organisation.

I therefore reiterate the clear message on behalf of the elected members that Aberdeen City Council objects to the proposed listing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela Scott', written in a cursive style.

Angela Scott
Chief Executive