



NEWS RELEASE

BEFS welcomes heritage bill announcement

Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS) welcomes today's announcement of a draft bill which will amend existing heritage legislation in Scotland, and its members look forward to participating in the consultation process to take place next year.

The current legislation has already been subject of intense scrutiny and debate in recent years. There is widespread feeling amongst practitioners, who work on a daily basis with Scotland's historic assets, that there are considerable opportunities to make the system work more effectively. Simon Gilmour, Director of Built Environment Forum Scotland comments 'we have been advocating positive change to heritage legislation to make the management of our unique and vitally important heritage more efficient and effective for everyone - we are therefore eager to see what this Bill will contain.'

It is expected that the Bill will result in legislation that will enable more effective management of Scotland's historic environment – reaping benefits for the economy, the environment and people's quality of life.

Notes to editors:

The Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture, Linda Fabiani, has today announced that consultation will take place on a draft bill to amend existing heritage legislation next year.

The Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS) is a forum of non-governmental organisations that work within the built environment sector in Scotland. Performing an intermediary role, BEFS exists to support its members by raising awareness of, and facilitating joint working on, strategic issues of common interest. For further information on BEFS visit: www.befs.org.uk

Contact: Jo Robertson, Forum Co-ordinator

Telephone: 0131 220 6241

Email: jrobertson@befs.org.uk

Issue date: 5th December 2008