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Sent: 28 November 2007 15:58

To: BEFS BEFS

Subject: BEFS e-Bulletin No. 3

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BEFS Bulletin is a benefit enjoyed by BEFS member organisations and subscribers. We are now offering the Bulletin to individuals and organisations outwith BEFS membership who want to keep up to date with current policy and parliamentary issues relating to the built environment.

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Welcome to BEFS e-bulletin No. 3.

Apologies to BEFS members for its later than usual publication. As you know it has been a busy couple of months for policy consultation workshops and James and I have been running to keep up!! James and I would like to thank all of you who managed to find the time to attend one or more of BEFS workshops. Workshop reports will be circulated in due course and posted on our web-site. I am sure you will agree they are a valuable forum to enable our views to be heard by government on policy matters relating to the built environment.

This Bulletin includes all those parliamentary answers we have been waiting to hear from the Parliament in relation to the questions contained in the last Bulletin. Be warned, the list is quite long!!

Finally, we have a job vacancy in this edition of BEFS e-Bulletin. A position is available for Project Manager with ALBA Conservation Trust. You can find the details at the appropriate section.

I am on holiday from 16-30th July. You can expect an e-Bulletin when I return w/c 30th July 2007.

I hope you enjoy your summer.

Best wishes,
Fiona

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Scottish Executive News Release

[Dumfries House saved for nation \(SE 27/06/07\)](#)

The Scottish Government is part of a newly-formed consortium that has reached agreement with the Marquis of Bute to purchase the 18th century Dumfries House and its collection to safeguard it for the nation.

The announcement of the agreement came today from Prince Charles who brought together the consortium to fund the acquisition of the house on the edge of Cumnock in East Ayrshire.

The Scottish Government, through Historic Scotland, is contributing £5 million towards the £45 million total cost of the project.

The business plan limits the financial involvement of the Scottish government. The house will be run by an independent trust, the Great Steward's Dumfries House Trust. It is hoped it will open to the public next year.

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News Release

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Recent Parliamentary Questions

S3W-1253 Margaret Smith: To ask the Scottish Executive how it assesses the progress of developers in meeting the target that 25% of new housing developments should be affordable homes. (20/06/07)

S3W-1364 Christine Grahame: To ask the Scottish Executive what reports it will commission on the cumulative impact of small to medium wind farm developments. 21/6/07)

S3W-1368 Christine Grahame: To ask the Scottish Executive what level of public funding has been allocated for wind farm developments in each year since 1999. (21/6/07)

S3W-1374 Rhona Brankin: To ask the Scottish Executive, further to its news release on 19 June 2007, entitled "Keeping it simple in the countryside", what plans it or its agencies have to consult stakeholders on any new arrangements to be proposed. (22/06/07)

S3W-1375 Rhona Brankin: To ask the Scottish Executive, further to its news release on 19 June 2007, entitled "Keeping it simple in the countryside", what steps it intends to take to ensure the independence of each body's decision-making where this is necessary to provide ministers, or others, with independent, expert advice. (22/06/07)

S3W-1376 Rhona Brankin: To ask the Scottish Executive, further to its news release on 19 June 2007,

entitled "Keeping it simple in the countryside", whether it will list examples of "unnecessary red tape" that have been brought to its attention and by what process it has concluded that these are unnecessary. (22/06/07)

S3W-1377 Rhona Brankin: To ask the Scottish Executive, further to its news release on 19 June 2007, entitled "Keeping it simple in the countryside", how a single body can be created without legislative change when existing legislation stipulates the existence of separate bodies. (22/06/07)

S3W-1378 Rhona Brankin: To ask the Scottish Executive, further to its news release on 19 June 2007, entitled "Keeping it simple in the countryside", whether it will list any existing environmental objectives that are to be omitted from the operations of the reformed structure and, if there are none, whether it will confirm that the review process has stipulated that all existing objectives are to be met. (22/06/07)

S3W-1448 Patricia Ferguson: To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S3W-728 by Linda Fabiani on 20 June 2007, which activities are duplicated by Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. (25/06/07)

S3W-1449 Patricia Ferguson: To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S3W-728 by Linda Fabiani on 20 June 2007, when its exploration of the detailed implications of a potential merger between Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland will be completed. (25/06/07)

S3W-1450 Patricia Ferguson: To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S3W-728 by Linda Fabiani on 20 June 2007, when it will be in a position to detail its future plans for Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. (25/06/07)

S3W-1497 Margaret Mitchell: To ask the Scottish Executive how many planning application appeals have been made to it in each year since 1999. (26/06/07)

S3W-1498 Margaret Mitchell: To ask the Scottish Executive how many planning application appeals have been made to it and subsequently rejected in each year since 1999. (26/06/07)

S3W-1499 Margaret Mitchell: To ask the Scottish Executive how many planning application appeals have been made to it and subsequently approved in each year since 1999. (26/06/07)

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Recent Parliamentary Answers

S3W-293 - Peter Peacock (Highlands and Islands) (Lab) (Date Lodged 29 May 2007) : To ask the Scottish Executive whether the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment will take into account the views from a wide range of rural interests including crofters, environmental groups, the voluntary sector, small businesses and social enterprises when developing policy for rural Scotland.

Answered by Richard Lochhead (6 June 2007): Yes. The views of all who contribute to rural society are important in building a vibrant and sustainable rural economy.

S3W-199 - Kenneth Gibson (Cunninghame North) (SNP) (Date Lodged 23 May 2007) : To ask the Scottish Executive what practical steps it will take to regenerate the centres of small towns.

Answered by Stewart Maxwell (31 May 2007): One of our central priorities is to support Scotland's economic growth. We have already made clear that one of the ways in which we will do so is by removing or reducing the burden of business rates for small businesses, many of which are located in traditional town centres across Scotland. We will announce further measures in due course.

S3W-249 - Patrick Harvie (Glasgow) (Green) (Date Lodged 24 May 2007) : To ask the Scottish Executive what action it will take to ensure that social and environmental criteria are specified in public sector procurement contracts.

Holding reply by Mr John Swinney (11 June 2007): I shall reply to the member as soon as possible

Answered by John Swinney (12 June 2007): The Executive has already issued guidance to the wider Scottish public sector on how, and under what circumstances, environmental criteria can be specified in public contracts. The Executive has been working with external stakeholder bodies to produce Scottish

specific guidance on including social criteria in public procurement activity which will be issued as soon as a final version has been agreed. The Executive is also involved in pilot projects looking at incorporating 'social clauses' into contracts. All Executive guidance on social and environmental issues in public procurement can be found on the Executive's website.

S3W-250 - Patrick Harvie (Glasgow) (Green) (Date Lodged 24 May 2007) : To ask the Scottish Executive when it intends to revise building standards.

Answered by Stewart Stevenson (1 June 2007): I have asked Dr. Paul Stollard, Chief Executive of the Scottish Building Standards Agency (SBSA), to answer. His response is as follows:

Following the revisions introduced on 1 May this year, work has begun on the next major revisions.

S3W-257 - David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Lab) (Date Lodged 24 May 2007) : To ask the Scottish Executive when it will review the boundaries of the Cairngorms National Park.

Holding reply by Mr Michael Russell (11 June 2007): I shall reply to the member as soon as possible

Answered by Michael Russell (20 June 2007): There is widespread support for the objectives of our national parks and in the first few years since they were designated both Scottish National Parks have achieved significant progress. Following on from the recent adoption of the two National Park Plans, I propose to initiate a review in the near future which will provide an opportunity to examine the operation of the park authorities as well as any questions about park boundaries.

S3W-354 - Tavish Scott (Shetland) (LD) (Date Lodged 30 May 2007) : To ask the Scottish Executive what its position is on the UK Marine Bill in respect of devolution of nature conservation responsibilities out to the 200-mile limit.

Answered by Richard Lochhead (6 June 2007): As I indicated to the Parliament previously, I am keen that the Parliament should have conservation powers for the marine environment from 12 to 200 nautical miles. I am aware of the Advisory Group on Marine and Coastal Strategy recommendation on this matter and, as I indicated in the answer to question S3W-126 on 5 June 2007, I am currently considering the Advisory Group report together with the related Environmental and Rural Development Committee report on the marine environment, and I will be responding to both sets of recommendations in due course.

S3W-379 - David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Lab) (Date Lodged 30 May 2007) : To ask the Scottish Executive what actions under the new Scottish Rural Development Plan are aimed at meeting the Kyoto Protocol on climate change.

Answered by Richard Lochhead (12 June 2007): Tackling climate change is one of the key priorities of the new Scotland Rural Development Programme 2007-13. The new programme contains significant support to encourage renewable energy projects to assist in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, the programme contains a number of forestry measures that will, amongst other things enhance the role of carbon sinks.

S3W-420 - Peter Peacock (Highlands and Islands) (Lab) (Date Lodged 31 May 2007) : To ask the Scottish Executive whether it intends to amend planning law to allow local referenda to determine planning applications and, if so, in what circumstances and for which type of application; what distinguishes one type of planning application from any other for the purpose of a local referendum being invoked; what the status would be of professional advice and recommendations on any application by local authority or Executive officials; how any such changes will affect the rights of applicants to have their applications considered in terms of planning law; whether appeals against a decision by a local referendum could be made and to whom; who would be responsible in law for any such planning decision, and how the geographic boundaries of any area to have such a referendum would be determined.

Answered by Stewart Stevenson (11 June 2007): The Scottish Executive has no plans to amend planning law as set out in the question. However, under the programme of planning modernisation following the passage of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006, it is clear that public participation in the planning process is important. Views of the public, where based on relevant planning matters, will be material considerations that should be taken into account when considering proposals. Local communities and their representatives are free to organise referenda to elicit such community views, and we encourage them to do so where they feel that the circumstances merit such an approach.

S3W-421 - Peter Peacock (Highlands and Islands) (Lab) (Date Lodged 31 May 2007) : To ask the Scottish

Executive what the status is of any petition which is submitted to planning officials, local authority councillors or the Scottish Ministers in favour of or opposed to any planning application when a planning application is being considered.

Holding reply by Mr Stewart Stevenson (14 June 2007): I shall reply to the member as soon as possible

Answered by Stewart Stevenson (29 June 2007): As indicated in my response to S3W-419, the views of the local community and public opinion may carry some weight in the decision making process as material considerations. It is for the planning authority to determine, in the particular circumstances of the case, the extent to which representations, in whatever form, are material considerations and the weight to be attached to each. The authority should have regard to Scottish Planning Policy 1 in reaching such a determination.

S3W-422 - Peter Peacock (Highlands and Islands) (Lab) (Date Lodged 31 May 2007) : To ask the Scottish Executive whether it considers that the impact of any proposal to allow local referenda to determine certain types of planning applications would have any implications for human rights in relation to the rights of individuals who could not participate in referenda for the applications to which they objected.

Holding reply by Mr Stewart Stevenson (14 June 2007): I shall reply to the member as soon as possible

Answered by Stewart Stevenson (29 June 2007): The implications of any such proposal would depend on the details of that proposal.

S3W-473 - Rhona Brankin (Midlothian) (Lab) (Date Lodged 1 June 2007) : To ask the Scottish Executive what budget it has calculated for the Scottish Rural Development Programme period for the following Axis 2 elements: (a) ongoing commitments to honour existing agreements in respect of environmentally sensitive areas, the Countryside Premium Scheme, the Rural Stewardship Scheme, the Organic Aid Scheme, forestry schemes and the Land Management Contract (LMC) Menu Scheme, (b) maintaining existing levels of new entry to Axis 2 elements of Tier 2 of LMCs (previously the LMC Menu Scheme), (c) maintaining existing levels of new entry to LMC Tier 3 measures (previously contained in the Rural Stewardship Scheme and Organic Aid Scheme), (d) maintaining existing levels of new entry to LMC forestry schemes, (e) ensuring levels of Natura management delivered through LMCs meet Scottish Natural Heritage targets for Scotland's Natura obligations and (f) maintaining existing levels of Less Favoured Areas support.

Answered by Richard Lochhead (14 June 2007): As I announced during the Debate on the Scotland Rural Development Programme 2007-13 on 31 May 2007, the new programme will cost approximately £1.6 billion.

On the specific points raised in this question and taking them in order, I can confirm that:

(a) £338 million will be used to honour existing agreements in respect of these schemes;

(b) approximately £49 million will be used to maintain existing levels of entry to the Axis 2 elements of iLand Managers Options of Rural Development Contracts (previously the Tier 2 Menu Scheme under Land Management Contracts), although given the demand lead nature of these payments it is not possible to be precise about the final level;

(c) £233m has been earmarked for agri-environment payments;

(d) £148 million will be available for new forestry expenditure under Axis 2 of Rural Development Contracts;

(e) £15 million will be available for new Natura applications and in addition there will be significant on-going spend by SNH on existing management agreements over the SRDP period, and

(f) £427 million is available to fund the Less Favoured Area Support Scheme (LFASS).

S3W-514 - Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Lab) (Date Lodged 5 June 2007) : To ask the Scottish Executive when it intends to publish the report on the evaluation of the Rural Voices programme which funded action research projects in rural communities and whether it will consider reviving Rural Voices as part of the new Scottish Rural Development Programme.

Answered by Richard Lochhead (14 June 2007): The Scotland Rural Development Programme will open up new opportunities for rural communities. We are looking for ways to encourage capacity building within those communities to ensure they can take full advantage of these opportunities.

Ministers have not yet been able to consider the evaluation of the Rural Voices pilot programme. The evaluation report will be published as soon as they have done so.

S3W-655 - Alex Neil (Central Scotland) (SNP) (Date Lodged 7 June 2007) : To ask the Scottish Executive what the average capital value per hectare is of development land in Scotland

Answered by John Swinney (15 June 2007): The value of land with planning consent for development varies over time with the locality and the type of planning consent. As an indicator of broad levels of value found in the Scottish property markets the Valuation Office Property Market Report 2007 records typical values of land for residential development and industrial and warehouse land values for Scotland. These values should be regarded as illustrative rather than definitive. A feature of the residential land market is the ilumpiness of changes in value. It is difficult to establish exactly when significant movements in value occurred.

Value of Land for Residential Development as at 1 January 2007

Region	Small Sites (for Less than Five Houses)	Bulk Land (Sites in Excess of Two Hectares)
	£ per Hectare	£ per Hectare
Glasgow	1,500,000	2,750,000
Edinburgh	3,600,000	4,000,000
Aberdeen	2,750,000	2,500,000
Inverness	980,000	750,000
Dundee	1,000,000	650,000

Industrial and Warehouse Land Values as at 1 January 2007

Scotland	Typical £ per Hectare
Glasgow	370,000
Edinburgh	350,000
Aberdeen	435,000
Inverness	420,000
Dundee	150,000

S3W-696 - Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Con) (Date Lodged 7 June 2007) : To ask the Scottish Executive how it intends to address a shortage of land for development.

Answered by Stewart Stevenson (13 June 2007): Shortages of land for development are addressed by planning authorities through the development plan process. A new framework for development plans, which will help to deliver up-to-date, relevant development plans, was set out in the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006. The new provisions are expected to come into force in autumn 2008, following the preparation of related secondary legislation. In addition, where a development plan is not adequately addressing the need for land, for example where it is out of date, planning authorities have powers to grant planning permission contrary to the development plan, subject to appropriate consultation and scrutiny.

S3W-727 - Patricia Ferguson (Glasgow Maryhill) (Lab) (Date Lodged 7 June 2007) : To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will introduce new legislation in respect of heritage and the built environment.

Answered by Linda Fabiani (20 June 2007): A review of the current legislation covering heritage protection is currently being undertaken and consideration of the need to legislate will be given once that review is

complete.

S3W-728 - Patricia Ferguson (Glasgow Maryhill) (Lab) (Date Lodged 7 June 2007) : To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will outline the rationale for a merger of Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland.

Answered by Linda Fabiani (20 June 2007): In taking forward policies to safeguard our heritage, our aim is to reduce duplication of activities. To this end, we are presently exploring the detailed implications of a potential merger between Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland.

S3W-729 - Patricia Ferguson (Glasgow Maryhill) (Lab) (Date Lodged 7 June 2007) : To ask the Scottish Executive how it intends to support Scotland's historic houses.

Answered by Linda Fabiani (20 June 2007): We will continue to support historic houses, as appropriate, through Historic Scotland's grants programme, their technical advice and guidance publications, and the sharing of best practice in a range of associated networks.

S3W-730 - Patricia Ferguson (Glasgow Maryhill) (Lab) (Date Lodged 7 June 2007) : To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will continue to fund and support Architecture and Design Scotland.

Answered by Linda Fabiani (20 June 2007): The Executive will continue to fund Architecture and Design Scotland, and will support it in its important aim of creating a better built environment for the people of Scotland.

S3W-731 - Patricia Ferguson (Glasgow Maryhill) (Lab) (Date Lodged 7 June 2007) : To ask the Scottish Executive what its priorities are for Architecture and Design Scotland.

Answered by Linda Fabiani (20 June 2007): We wish to see Architecture and Design Scotland carry forward its objective of inspiring better quality development across the country and contributing towards the creation of successful and sustainable places. The detailed objectives of the organisation will be confirmed in its forthcoming corporate plan.

S3W-802 - Elaine Murray (Dumfries) (Lab) (Date Lodged 8 June 2007) : To ask the Scottish Executive what the timescale is for the 2007 spending review.

Answered by John Swinney (19 June 2007): Work on Strategic Spending Review 2007 is already underway, and the outcome will be announced in the autumn. I will provide Parliament with further detail shortly.

S3W-918 - Rhona Brankin (Midlothian) (Lab) (Date Lodged 13 June 2007) : To ask the Scottish Executive what plans it has to review the functions or structures of Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency; whether any such review will include other bodies and agencies; what consultation it is planning with stakeholders, and when it will announce its intentions.

Answered by Michael Russell (21 June 2007): The landscape of public sector delivery is crowded. As the Cabinet Minister for Finance and Sustainable Growth indicated on 24 May 2007, we intend a wide ranging review of this landscape so that we can, if necessary, make changes that both create efficiencies but more importantly improve the service provided to our customers - whether they be land managers, individuals, businesses or communities.

To support this review, I held a meeting on 19 June 2007 with nine of the public sector bodies, including SEPA and SNH, sponsored by the Rural Affairs and Environment portfolio and asked them to draw up proposals to deliver a single rural and environmental delivery service, capable of implementation within a year. The aim is to build a simpler, more efficient delivery service, operating as a single body, but without any change in legislation. It should give better protection for the environment without unnecessary red tape or complexity.

We also intend to involve stakeholders directly in the design process and to investigate options for improving alignment with local authority and other bodies outside the Rural Affairs and Environment portfolio.

S3W-922 - Rhona Brankin (Midlothian) (Lab) (Date Lodged 13 June 2007) : To ask the Scottish Executive what discussions it has had with Her Majesty's Government concerning the provisions of the UK Marine Bill or any proposed Scottish Marine Bill and when it will announce its legislative intentions with regard to the

protection of the marine environment.

Holding reply by Mr Richard Lochhead (27 June 2007): I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Answered by Richard Lochhead (28 June 2007): On Monday 18 June 2007 I met with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, his fellow ministers and with ministers from the devolved administrations. We discussed many matters including the UK Marine Bill.

I have previously indicated to the Parliament our intentions and on Tuesday 19 June 2007 at the Oceans 07 conference in Aberdeen I re-iterated my support for a Scottish Marine Bill. These discussions are continuing. Broadly, we believe marine legislation should deliver a simpler regulatory system for the marine environment, more action on marine nature conservation, a strategic national approach, and greater local control over marine and coastal areas. I hope to bring forward plans in due course.

S3W-924 - Rhona Brankin (Midlothian) (Lab) (Date Lodged 13 June 2007) : To ask the Scottish Executive whether it intends to reconvene the Advisory Group on Marine and Coastal Strategy and when it will announce its intentions with regard to the implementation of this group's recommendations.

Holding reply by Mr Richard Lochhead (27 June 2007): I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Answered by Richard Lochhead (28 June 2007): I have previously indicated to the Parliament our intentions and on Tuesday 19 June 2007 at the Oceans 07 conference in Aberdeen I re-iterated my support for a Scottish Marine Bill. These discussions are continuing. Broadly, we believe marine legislation should deliver a simpler regulatory system for the marine environment, more action on marine nature conservation, a strategic national approach, and greater local control over marine and coastal areas. I hope to bring forward plans in due course. It is important that this bill builds on the very useful work of the Environment and Rural Development Committee in the last Parliament and the work of the Advisory Group on Marine and Coastal Strategy, which both made recommendations about these issues. I am currently considering both the committees and group's recommendations and will respond in due course.

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Motions and Bill Progress

***S3M-205 Jim Hume: Land for Affordable Housing:-** That the Parliament recognises that house prices have risen by 180% in the last 10 years and as such are increasing the demand for affordable housing; notes that one of the great obstacles to developing affordable housing is obtaining appropriate land for development, particularly in urban areas; congratulates the Scottish Churches Make it Happen campaign which has identified potential for affordable homes from redundant and underused church properties, and calls on the Scottish Executive to enter into negotiations with Scottish Churches and other landholding bodies such as the Ministry of Defence, the NHS and the Forestry Commission to ensure that the necessary land is made available to meet the demand for affordable housing across Scotland. (20/06/07)

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Job Vacancies

Alba Conservation Trust - Project Manager

Interested in working with the leading heritage regeneration charity in Scotland?

Alba Conservation Trust heads a group of building preservation trusts including the Cockburn Conservation Trust and Scottish Historic Buildings Trust, working with historic buildings throughout Scotland. Based in Edinburgh, Alba has a dedicated team working on a range of projects from small projects such as Liberton Bank House in Edinburgh to larger ones such as the Hippodrome Cinema in Bo'ness. We are looking for an experienced Project Manager to join our team.

You will have a degree in an appropriate building, surveying or architectural discipline and an interest in conservation. With a proven track record in the building sector, particularly in project management, and a working knowledge of Scottish cultural and architectural history, you will demonstrate a keen interest in architectural detail as well as an understanding of the issues in fundraising for complex historic buildings projects.

Although the post is full-time, candidates wishing part-time or flexible working will be considered. Salary is dependent on experience. If you are interested, please Email a copy of your Curriculum Vitae to una@conservationtrust.co.uk

Closing date is 23rd July 2007

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Information in the Bulletin is extracted from a number of websites; such as the Scottish Executive (SE); the Scottish Parliament (SP); Architecture and Design Scotland (A+DS); Historic Scotland (HS); Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH); Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO); English Heritage (EH); Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE); Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG); Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS); Department of Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA); National Assembly for Wales (NAW); Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS); Scottish Building Standards Agency (SBSA). For further information, links are provided to the relevant documents.

If you have any questions or comments on the above, or would like to submit information to be included, please get in touch with Fiona Binning fbinning@befse.org.uk or tel: BEFS Office on 0131 220 6241.

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