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Dear David Barnes

Mini-consultation on Pillar to Pillar CAP Budget Transfers

I write to lend support to the view of a number of colleagues within BEFS (Built Environment Forum Scotland) around the objective of maximising funds available to the next Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP) and through this the resourcing of Scotland's agri-environment scheme. The Scottish Government's National Performance Framework highlights the need to protect the built and natural environment; within this context agri-environment scheme funding plays a key role in supporting effective, appropriate management of Scotland's historic environment (the majority of which is not statutorily protected). We highlight the c£9 million spent on historic environment measures under the previous programme and would wish that such funding could at least be matched in the next programming period.

As recognised in the mini-consultation, the allocations to Scotland will result in a low per-hectare levels of CAP funding in both Pillars of the new CAP, *but with a particularly poor position in Pillar 2*. Without the transfer of funds from Pillar 1 to Pillar 2 the future scope of SRDP will be constrained.

Like other bodies within the environment sector BEFS urges you to transfer the maximum level of funds (15%) to help ensure future management of sites of historic and cultural significance.

Yours sincerely

Jo Robertson

Senior Policy Officer – historic environment