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European and External Relations Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
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5<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Dear Ms McAlpine

## **Call for evidence – Scotland’s Relationship with the European Union**

Thank you for consulting on the matter of Scotland’s relationship with the European Union. The points made below reflect feedback from eight members of Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS). BEFS is an umbrella organisation that brings together non-governmental organisations across Scotland’s built environment sector. Drawing on extensive expertise and knowledge in a membership-led forum, BEFS informs, debates and advocates on the strategic issues, opportunities and challenges facing Scotland’s historic environment.

This evidence is based on feedback from within BEFS membership and cannot be taken to represent a collective view from BEFS. At this stage BEFS members recognise that it is ‘hard to say’ what the answer to many of the questions are. In providing evidence BEFS hopes to give a sense of how organisations within our membership engage with Europe and how Brexit will potentially impact upon this.

### **1 The domestic process for dealing with a withdrawal from the EU**

#### **1.1 Legislation**

In terms of European Directives, members have identified Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as key legislation which would need to be subsumed into domestic law if the status quo is to be maintained. EIA is valued in particular for recognising ‘regional significance’ for archaeological remains which is a level of protection not otherwise recognised in Scottish legislation. The Marine Strategy Framework Directive is also relevant as it enables the designation of historic marine protected areas. It is worth noting that a paper by the Institute of European Environmental Policy (March 2016<sup>1</sup>) states that under the scenario where the UK sits entirely outside the

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ieep.eu/assets/2000/IEEP\\_Brexit\\_2016.pdf](http://www.ieep.eu/assets/2000/IEEP_Brexit_2016.pdf)

EU, future UK parliaments would have the scope to adopt either stronger or weaker environmental standards than at present. There is some concern within BEFS that any drive towards deregulation in terms of land use planning policy may result in diminished care and protection for Scotland's historic environment.

## **1.2 Funding**

Funding secured through both agri-environment schemes (under CAP) and the EU LEADER programme contribute significantly to the safeguarding of Scotland's historic environment. Archaeology Scotland identifies potential impacts for community-led archaeology projects; for example its Adopt-a-Monument Scheme which has run in its current phase since 2011 with funding from various partners including £66,000 from LEADER. This has worked with 44 community groups throughout Scotland (including in areas of high deprivation such as Merkinch, Inverness) and has 60 community groups on the waiting list for the scheme. The scheme has led to Finland setting up an equivalent scheme and the model is being tested in the Republic of Ireland. There is interest from a group of partners in bidding for funding through the Northern Peripheries Inter-Reg scheme to develop the model in Norway and Italy – the potential funding would be in the region of £1.5million.

Within the funding environment more generally, European funding plays an important role in match funding, for example matching Heritage Lottery Fund funding. There are anticipated implications for partnership working where funding partners are reliant on European funding.

## **2 The position of EU citizens in Scotland**

### **2.1 Movement of people**

Feedback from members indicates that EU citizens are actively contributing to the built environment sector in Scotland as professionals (planners, archaeologists, conservators) and (especially specialist) contractors. Archaeologists and conservators (of objects and collections that are part of our cultural heritage) are drawn from across Europe due to the specialist nature of the work.

#### ***Research***

The Institute of Conservation (ICON) reports that the relatively new field of heritage science is one where the UK has global standing and reputation. Around 50% of

funding comes from the EU (compared with about 7% of total public research funding coming from the UK<sup>2</sup>).

### **Networks**

Access to European networks is identified by a number of our members. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists has highlighted the importance of European research networks and notes the immediate threat to projects in the planning phase due to the current uncertainty. Edinburgh World Heritage has, in recent years developed an international profile and network of partners to present Edinburgh as one of the main centres of conservation in Europe. EWH is involved with a range of funded programmes for example: the SATURN project (European Standards for Vocational training in Urban Regeneration) which analysed a number of urban regeneration projects in Scotland, Poland and Austria; the AV4C (Added value for Craft project) which explored the linkages between sustainable development and craft-type enterprises; and URBELAC (Urban European and Latin American and Caribbean cities) – adopting an integrated approach to address urban challenges.

## **2.2 Training**

ICON reports that there are a little over 3000 conservators working in the UK<sup>3</sup>; this small field relies on cross-border training and movement of specialists. The profession of Conservator is included in the EU Free Movement of Regulated Professionals legislation which enables conservators to use their qualifications across the EU.

The viability of specialist post-graduate training may be put at risk if students are required to pay non-EU tuition fees and if prospects of working elsewhere in Europe are reduced. The ERASMUS scheme currently attracts EU citizens to study in Scotland – there is anecdotal concern that potential loss of this funding will put training courses at risk and ultimately reduce the supply of specialists into the workforce. PAS (Planning Aid Scotland) reports ERASMUS+ as their main source of European funding – this currently enables them to work effectively with European partners in the Innovation Circle Network (Baltic Regions). PAS also report on interest expressed from Norway around potential future collaboration outwith the EU.

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<sup>2</sup> *Conference on Science and Engineering in Arts, Heritage and Archaeology* (<http://www.seahacdt.ac.uk/seaha-conference-2016/>), Dr Adam Cooper, Lecturer in Social Science and Public Policy at UCL

<sup>3</sup> *Conservation Labour Market Intelligence Research Report, 2012-13*, Icon, Kenneth Aitchison [http://icon.org.uk/system/files/documents/conservation\\_labour\\_market\\_intelligence\\_2012-13\\_0.pdf](http://icon.org.uk/system/files/documents/conservation_labour_market_intelligence_2012-13_0.pdf)

I trust that this evidence gives a flavor of how the historic environment in Scotland may be impacted by Brexit and is helpful to the committee in considering the future of Scotland's relationship with the European Union. If you require further clarification on any of the points please get in touch.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Euan Leitch', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Euan Leitch**  
Director