

Chief Planner
Scottish Government
Area 2H South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Chief.Planner@gov.scot

23 February 2017

Dear Mr McNairney,

Consultation on raising planning fees¹

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this consultation.

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) is the leading professional body representing archaeologists working in the UK and overseas. We promote high professional standards and strong ethics in archaeological practice, to maximise the benefits that archaeologists bring to society, and provide a self-regulatory quality assurance framework for the sector and those it serves.

CIfA has over 3,200 members and around 80 registered practices across the United Kingdom. Its members work in all branches of the discipline: heritage management, planning advice, excavation, finds and environmental study, buildings recording, underwater and aerial archaeology, museums, conservation, survey, research and development, teaching and liaison with the community, industry and the commercial and financial sectors. CIfA is a member of the Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS), a network organisation that brings together non-governmental organisations and professional bodies that work with Scotland's built environment.

CIfA's Scottish Group has over 250 members practising in the public, private and voluntary sector in Scotland.

Raising planning fees

General

CIfA welcomes Scottish Government's recognition of the importance of planning, although its importance is not confined to supporting economic growth and delivering quality homes, but also includes the management and protection of the historic environment. Indeed,

local authority services, which provide such management and protection through the planning system, have a key role to play in the prompt delivery of sustainable development.

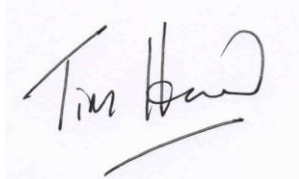
ClfA supports proposals to increase planning fees with a view towards moving towards full cost recovery for planning services. Those planning services include advice and input from local authority historic environment services and the Institute urges Scottish Government to ensure that a proportionate part of any fees collected is committed to supporting the engagement of local authority historic environment services in the planning process.

Question: We propose a 2 stage approach to reviewing planning fees, with an initial increase to the fee maximum for these categories of development, followed by a wider review of the fee structure once the current planning reform programme has identified changes to the planning system. As a first stage, do you agree with the proposed maximum fee level??

Yes.

If there is anything further that I can do to assist please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Howard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Tim Howard LLB, Dip Prof Arch
Senior Policy Advisor

¹ <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00510960.pdf>