



Graeme MacLennan  
Better Regulation and Industry Engagement  
Scottish Government  
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20 August 2013

Dear Mr MacLennan,

## **Consultation on Primary Authority Arrangements relating to the Devolved Regulatory Responsibilities of Local Authorities in Scotland**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon this consultation.

### **The Institute for Archaeologists**

The Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) is a professional body for the study and care of the historic environment. It promotes best practice in archaeology and provides a self-regulatory quality assurance framework for the sector and those it serves.

IfA has over 3,000 members and more than 70 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.

IfA's Scottish Group has over 200 members practising in the public, private and voluntary sector in Scotland. Furthermore, IfA 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.

## **Primary Authority Arrangements relating to the Devolved Regulatory Responsibilities of Local Authorities in Scotland**

### **General Comments**

IfA's comments in this response are confined to consideration of regulation relating to, or impacting upon, the historic environment. Regulation of the historic environment is provided by a variety of means including statutory designation and attendant controls (for instance, in relation to scheduled monuments) and through consideration of historic assets in the planning regime. It is noted that many of the statutes regulating the historic environment (or activities which have an impact upon it) are not specified in Annex B. IfA's concern relates to any remaining scope which the specified statutes may have to impact upon the historic environment.

IfA provides comprehensive standards for the study and care of archaeological remains (see <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>).

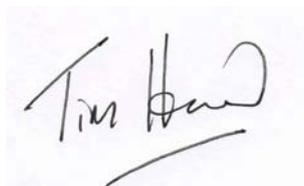
## Specific Questions

### Question 1: In principle, do you favour the introduction of Primary Authority Partnership arrangements relating to the devolved regulatory responsibilities of local authorities in Scotland?

1.1 Only if, where the exercise of such regulatory responsibilities requires consideration of the historic environment, professional standards are consistently applied by 'primary authorities' in this regard (including the Institute's interim *Standard and guidance for archaeological advice by historic environment services*: [http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/Standard\\_and\\_guidance\\_for\\_archaeological\\_advice\\_interim\\_approved.pdf](http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/Standard_and_guidance_for_archaeological_advice_interim_approved.pdf)). If such standards were not to be consistently and universally applied, this would put the historic environment at risk.

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 the name.

Tim Howard LLB, Dip Prof Arch  
Policy Advisor