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23 January 2017

Dear Amanda,

**The Way Forward for Archaeology in Northern Ireland: A Draft Proposal**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft proposal for The Way Forward for Archaeology in Northern Ireland.

**The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists**

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Cifa) is a leading professional body representing archaeologists. 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 c 3,200 members and around 80 registered practices across the United Kingdom and beyond (including the Republic of Ireland). 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.

**The Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland**

The IAI is the primary all-island professional organisation representing archaeologists working on the island of Ireland.

The aim of the IAI, through the representation of our members, is to advance and strengthen the profession of archaeology on the island of Ireland. Our vision is that we will have a vibrant and sustainable archaeological profession that actively contributes to the protection of our

archaeological resource, which in turn contributes to the social and economic wellbeing of the entire community.

CifA and IAI are also members of the Northern Ireland Archaeology Forum (NIAF), a grouping of independent bodies concerned with archaeology in Northern Ireland.

## **The Way Forward for Archaeology in Northern Ireland**

### **General**

CifA and IAI welcome this initiative and the commitment of government and the archaeological sector in Northern Ireland to establishing a sound basis for protecting the historic environment and promoting archaeology in future.

The Chartered Institute and the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland have been involved in the discussions that preceded this document and hope to be fully involved in taking the proposals forward. As you know, we have particular jointly shared interests in the development of systems, procedures, standards and legislation (which CifA and IAI have participated in extensively elsewhere in the UK and Ireland respectively), and the identification of training needs and the actions necessary to meet those needs (with which, again, CifA and IAI have long track records of involvement).

We strongly support the draft proposal and the sentiments expressed in it and our detailed comments below should not in any way be taken to undermine that support.

We will provide detailed comments upon the synthesis in due course.

### **Detailed comments**

CifA and IAI endorse the vision of success set out in bulleted form, but would add a further bulleted point as follows:

- All archaeological work delivers public benefit by being undertaken to recognised professional standards by archaeologists whose competence has been accredited by a professional body, and who are accountable for their ethical behaviour to that professional body.

The *'Key Issues emerging from the Symposium'* are largely a matter of record, but it would be helpful to add *'Policy'* to *'Systems, Procedures, Standards and Legislation'* in the second key issue.

CifA and IAI would be happy to provide representatives to serve on or assist Task Groups as necessary, but are concerned that the timeframe is ambitious. That is no bad thing in itself, but

it might be necessary to identify additional resources to enable the wide and varied workload to be managed promptly and effectively.

Cifa and IAI would be delighted to engage further jointly in the development of this initiative,. In the meantime, if there is anything further that I can do to assist please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Hinton BA MCifa FRSA FSA FIAM FSA Scot  
Chief Executive  
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists



Michael MacDonagh MA MIAI  
Chair  
Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland