



Department for Culture Media & Sport

Minister for Culture and the Digital
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Dr Sam Rose FRGS
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17 June 2016

Dear Dr Rose,

Thank you for your letter of 24 May in response to the publication of the Culture White Paper, copying in the Minister for Heritage, the Rt Hon David Evennett MP.

Since the launch of the paper in March, much work has already taken place to begin to implement the measures outlined therein, and we look forward to seeing these through to fruition over the coming years.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the first year of World Heritage UK. My officials provided very positive feedback on your inaugural conference in Saltaire last October, and I understand that you now have an established research agenda and have undertaken several networking and engagement events with other World Heritage stakeholders. Such collaborative engagement is crucial for the continued protection and celebration of the UK's World Heritage Sites.

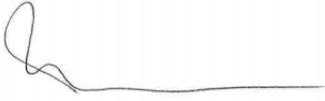
I was particularly interested to hear about your Management Plan workshop in Edinburgh earlier this year. As you will have seen in the White Paper, my Department is dedicated to ensuring that the UK is recognised internationally as a leader in heritage protection, and in the safeguarding of its exceptional World Heritage Sites. In order to do this, it is vital that we get the basics right, and a key part of this is ensuring that every site has a comprehensive and up to date Management Plan. If World Heritage UK is able to assist in conveying this message to sites' management teams, and in providing practical support for their completion where required, this will help us to demonstrate to UNESCO, and others internationally, the UK's exemplary guardianship of its World Heritage.

I can assure you that the Minister for Heritage and I see World Heritage UK as a very useful forum for coordinating UK engagement with and among our outstanding World Heritage Sites, and we look forward to continuing to work with you through our officials over the coming months. We have asked them to keep us updated so please do continue to engage with them to discuss further ideas and future plans.



Department for Culture, Media & Sport

I hope that this reply is useful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'E' followed by a horizontal line.

Signed by the Minister's Private Secretary in his absence

Ed Vaizey MP

Minister for Culture and the Digital Economy