



HISTORIC SCOTLAND
ALBA AOSMHOR

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Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament
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Our ref:
Your ref: PE 1433

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Dear Mr Todd

I write in response to the Committee's questions.

Please note that Historic Scotland is an Executive Agency of Scottish Government. As part of Scottish Government, we work to the same high-level objectives. Therefore any Scottish Government response to the Committee should be read as also including Historic Scotland.

On this specific Petition, I can report that the Agency was represented at the Growing Spaces summit in May 2010, and is aware of the objectives and issues addressed by the Grow Your Own working group. The working group's February 2011 report identified the important role played by the Public Finance Manual, which provides the main source of guidance for public sector land-holders such as Historic Scotland, setting requirements about how we lease or sell land.

The Manual also advises public bodies to limit their holdings to land which is essential for carrying out their primary purposes, and Historic Scotland follows that guidance. However, we recognise there may be small areas of land at a very few of our managed properties which might be considered capable of supporting new horticultural use. Subject to being able to satisfy the Manual's requirements (current or if/as amended), Historic Scotland remains willing to look with an open mind at specific proposals.

Yours sincerely

Ian Walford



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