



## **PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF PE1433**

### **QUESTIONS ARISING FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

#### **Historic Scotland response**

Historic Scotland (HS) is an Executive Agency of Scottish Government, so the Scottish Government response to the Petitions Committee should be read as also including Historic Scotland in all essential respects.

Historic Scotland 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.

That group's February 2011 report identified the important role played by the Scottish Public Finance Manual (SPFM), which provides the main source of guidance for public sector land-holders on the requirements laid on public bodies in respect of leasing or selling land.

The SPFM also instructs public bodies, such as Historic Scotland, to limit their land holdings to land which is essential for carrying out their primary purposes, and we follow this guidance.

However, we do recognise that there may be small areas of land at very few of our managed properties which might be considered capable of supporting new horticultural use. Subject to being able to satisfy SPFM requirements (current or if/as amended), Historic Scotland remains willing to look with an open mind at specific proposals.

HS had previously submitted comments as per the above. We were not entirely clear if these have reached the Committee, but we have offered these comments previously and have nothing more to add.