

PE1444/D

Petitioner Letter of 3 February 2013

Scottish Government Petition PE1444

I have read the responses received:

The Westminster Government declines to reduce VAT to encourage repairs to existing buildings, listed or otherwise.

Historic Scotland points out all the worthy efforts that are being made but it is clear that no incentives exist or are actively planned despite agreement all round that our buildings are suffering from a lack of repair.

I do not accept the Historic Scotland response as an adequate response from the Scottish Government. It should not hide behind Historic Scotland. The responsibility for our historic housing stock rests with the Scottish Government and it needs to put its money where its mouth is and steer some funds towards this problem.

At least Westminster went into print with its reasons for not funding a reduction in VAT. If it will not fund grant aid for this issue, the Scottish Government needs to admit that it is not prioritising this and give its reasons; otherwise it is just another case of whining about Westminster but not doing anything constructive with the powers it has.

Florance Kennedy
3 February 2013