



The National Trust for Scotland

Wemyss House 28 Charlotte Square Edinburgh EH2 4ET
Telephone (0131) 243 9300 Fax (0131) 243 9301 website www.nts.org.uk

Mr Paul McFadden
European Structural Funds Division
Scottish Executive Enterprise, Transport and
Lifelong Learning Department
Meridian Court
5 Cadogan Street
GLASGOW
G2 6AT

Direct Line: (0131) 243 9432
Direct Fax: (0131) 243 9444

20 December 2006

Dear Paul

2007-13 STRUCTURAL FUNDS PROGRAMMES FOR SCOTLAND

Thank you for extending the opportunity to everyone, including The National Trust for Scotland, to participate in the current consultation over the 2007-13 round of Structural Funds Programmes in Scotland. Against a backdrop of inevitable change occasioned by a substantial increase in Member States, an obligation to progress with actions compatible with the European Council's agreed 2005 revitalised Lisbon Strategy, and the extent of the consequentially prescriptive legislation governing the 2007-13 Structural Funds, it seems that the Scottish Executive has done well to produce its proposed way forward, including ERDF and ESF financial allocations, for the Highlands & Islands and Lowlands & Uplands Scotland.

It is likely that there will be partners, including the European Commission, who might wish to 'tweak' the proposed number of Priorities - whether pursuing their increase for the sake of specificity or their reduction to facilitate more flexibility - despite that proposed being not too dissimilar from what might have been anticipated. However, it is suspected that by the end of the day the principal substance of your proposal will not have been altered, substantially.

The proposed introduction of Intermediate Administration Bodies (IABs) and Intermediate Delivery Bodies (IDBs) are, of course, not without precedent and can be viewed as evolutionary. It is anticipated that the ensuing contractual agreements between the IABs and the Scottish Executive are likely to provide clearly defined roles for those administering the Programmes. Assuming that commissioning arrangements, with the Scottish Executive, ensure complementarity with the administrative work of the IABs, there seems to be a constructive approach to the IDBs becoming more directly involved with those elements of the Structural Funds that are targeting the selected activities for which they are responsible, already, on behalf of specific areas of Scotland.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Kindest Regards
Danny

DANNY NUGENT