

Response of HRBA to HLF's claim that forty years of repair funding for places of worship it has not prevented large numbers of places of worship appearing on 'at risk' registers in recent years.

Part of an email of 19 May 2017 to the original recipient of HLF's email making the claim, copied to HLF.

[HLF claims that] GPOW and its predecessors have 'not prevented large numbers of places of worship appearing on 'at risk' registers in recent years'. I regard this as potentially misleading and unnecessarily depressing. First, places of worship have only been systematically added to risk registers recently. HLF must surely know this is why they have been appearing 'in recent years'. Secondly and far more importantly, according to Historic England fewer than 4% of listed POWs are on the risk register with no solution agreed for dealing with the problem (HE presentation, Oct 2015). Given the generally poor condition of these buildings in the 1970s, this is not a failure but a howling success. It would be most unfortunate if HLF were to start suggesting that listed places of worship are generally in poor condition, and then use that to imply that GPOW and its predecessors represent failed policies.

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Chair, HRBA