



Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport

John Glen MP
Minister for the Arts, Heritage and
Tourism
4th Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

www.gov.uk/dcms
enquiries@culture.gov.uk

c/o Trevor Cooper
Chair
The Historic Religious Buildings Alliance
tc@trevorcooper.net

Our ref: 02991/JH

31 August 2017

Dear Mr Cooper,

Thank you for your letter of 2 August to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, the Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP, setting out concerns which you and your co-signatories have following the announced closure of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Grants for Places of Worship Grant (GPOW) Programme later this year. I am replying as this matter falls within my policy area.

I am aware that many of you are still involved in discussions over this matter with the HLF. Along with my officials, I am currently engaged in discussions with the HLF on the way forward regarding funding for listed places of worship.

You note that the English Churches and Cathedrals Sustainability Review has been tasked with examining how church buildings and cathedrals in England can become more financially sustainable. The report, due to be published later this year, is expected to make recommendations on the most effective strategic use of resources. I trust that the Review, commissioned by the Government, will lead to a strategy of practical support and funding to enable these buildings to thrive and serve their communities for generations to come.

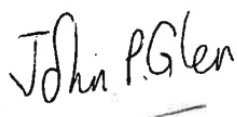
It is good to know that you find the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme such a valuable resource, and I am delighted that we have been able to commit to the present level of funding until March 2020. I hope that this scheme, along with the £95m made available of recent times through the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund and the First World War Centenary Cathedral Repairs Fund have played a significant part in ensuring our wonderful listed places of worship are in their best overall condition for many years.

I note that a number of the signatories to your letter are involved with the Sustainability Review in one way or another, and I hope they are using the opportunity to input their knowledge and advice.



Finally, thank you also for your kind words on the re-appointment of Karen as Secretary of State here at DCMS. As part of her Ministerial team, I can say we are very much looking forward to continuing the great work of the Department.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Glen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

John Glen MP
Minister for the Arts, Heritage and Tourism