



Historic England

From the Chairman
Sir Laurie Magnus

Mr Trevor Cooper
Chairman
The Historic Religious Buildings Alliance
The Heritage Alliance
Clutha House
10 Storey's Gate
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4 April 2017

Dear Trevor,

Thank you for your letter dated 31 March.

The HLF's decision to close the GPOW scheme, assuming that it is announced on the basis that is now widely expected, has been made without consulting Historic England. We received advance notice of the planned change during the course of last month and Duncan Wilson has, in response, written to Ros Kerlake raising various concerns about the implications. I have also spoken to the Chairman of the HLF, Sir Peter Luff.

It is a particular concern for us (and I am sure for you) that the expert advice and support provided by our staff in the HLF's administration of the GPOW scheme should continue. We have agreed to discuss how this might work, but no formal agreement is yet in place.

The HLF's plans for the GPOW scheme have never been raised with the members of the English Churches and Cathedrals Sustainability Review Panel.

I understand, when the announcement is made, that the HLF intend to explain the background to this change and to give reasons why they believe that places of worship will not be disadvantaged. We will continue to discuss the implications of this with the HLF and will note with interest any stakeholders' correspondence to HLF into which HE is copied. This matter will, of course, be a major item on the agenda of the May Places of Worship Forum.

*With all best wishes,
Laurie
Magnus*

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