

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Cultair agus Cùisean an Taobh a-muigh
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs

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Dear Dr Gilmour

PROPOSAL FOR A YEAR OF SCOTTISH ARCHAEOLOGY

Thank you for your letter dated 9 May 2013 asking for my support for a year of Scottish Archaeology. As I said at the launch of the ScARF Booklet, *Telling Scotland's Story*, I have been greatly enthused to read about all the exciting developments you are planning in the sector for 2015. However, I think it is only fair to let you know enquiries have revealed that plans for the forthcoming set of Focus Years are too far advanced for 2015 to be the Year of Scottish Archaeology.

I should also say that having discussed this with colleagues, I feel quite strongly that it would be preferable to develop a proposal for a Focus Year based on the wider historic environment and heritage sector. I believe this would be more likely to have a broad enough appeal to ensure the wide engagement and significant additional tourism visits which are the primary criteria for Focus Years.

I really do hope that the work you are proposing for 2015 will not be too greatly disrupted and can go ahead in the run up to a future Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology. I look forward to developing these exciting proposals for the future with you in due course.

Kind regards
Fiona Hyslop

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