

Fiona Hyslop MSP
Minister for Culture and External Affairs
Scottish Parliament
Holyrood
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

20 June 2013

Dear Cabinet Secretary

Recent appointments to the Board of National Museums Scotland (NMS)

I write on behalf of the Council of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland to advise that the same situation has arisen as that of November 2010 and January 2011 when the Society corresponded with you regarding the absence of a Fellow of the Society from the NMS Board of Trustees. Council discussed the matter at its meeting on 10 June 2013 and asked me to raise the issue with you again and express the hope that we can somehow resolve this situation and avoid its future occurrence. Council would also like to record its thanks to Dr Gordon Rintoul at NMS for informing it of the situation and indicating that there will be a further round of appointments within the next 12 months, one of which might appropriately have a role in supporting the new NMS Department of Scottish History and Archaeology, a role to which many of the Society's Fellows would of course be well suited.

Council acknowledges the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Scotland's Code of Practice and supports the overarching principle of appointment on merit; however, the Code of Practice does also make provision for legal requirements in the composition of Boards of Trustees. For example, Section 14 of the Code of Practice, which deals with Statutory Nominations, recognises the important role statutory places have in enhancing the diversity of applications and Section 2 regarding specialist posts is also potentially relevant in this case.

The Society would be pleased to work with you and the Chairman of NMS in any way it can to help ensure that NMS Board appointments are faithful to the National Heritage (Scotland) Act 1985 in this particular regard.

Yours sincerely



Alan Saville MifA FSA Scot
President

Cc Aileen McKechnie, Director of Culture and Heritage, Scottish Government
Bruce Minto, Chairman of NMS Board of Trustees

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