

Education, Sport and Culture
Culture and Lifelong Learning
P O Box 142, Highlands Campus
Jersey, JE4 8QJ
Tel: +44 (0)1534 445504
Fax: +44 (0)1534 445524



Our ref: JGR/RMcL/PJN/ESC/C&LLL/C/ 20100104 Ltr Mesch re Council for Culture Conference

4 January 2010

Mr John Mesch
President Council for the Protection of Jersey's Heritage
Anneville Lodge
Le Mont des Landes
St Martin
Jersey JE3 6DJ

Dear Mr Mesch

Council for Culture Conference

First of all may I say how delighted I was to see so many people representing the heritage sector at the Council for Culture conference in November.

I hope if you were among those present you found the experiences of our visiting speakers helpful and informative. My Department is keen to work with you to help progress your important work on behalf of our community and I know from the workshop sessions that the opportunity to discuss some of the specific issues for the future was valued.

The Department is in the process of converting a number of policy aspirations in the Cultural Strategy into a practical plan for the future. This plan will give the whole sector a new chance to state its aims and objectives, and to speak with one voice to Government. I want to compile the new plan with your full involvement, assistance and support and I would, therefore, like to propose the way forward. We hope you will feel able to explain to us, by examining and listing your priorities, how you would like to fit into the bigger picture, and what you can bring to the table of our discussions on the new policy.

I would be grateful if you would consult your membership, committees or supporters so that you are in a position to provide me with a list of your top ten priority projects or issues to be addressed for maintaining cultural heritage in the Island. I will need to receive this information by 12 March 2010 if you or your organization wishes to be considered for inclusion in the new Departmental policy plan for cultural heritage.

This will be the first time that we have attempted to work together in this way to compile a co-ordinated plan for cultural heritage in the Island – and partnership is something I wish to strongly emphasise in the process. Indeed, the Department will be looking carefully at your submissions from a number of points of view, a key feature being the potential for organizations and individuals to work in partnership.

To assist everyone achieve this common objective, I have asked Stephen Harrison of KVS Consultants, who spoke at the conference and chaired one of the workshops, to liaise with you and to explain the kind of information the Department needs, and the format in which we need to receive it. As you know, Stephen Harrison has a long and distinguished reputation for work in the sector. He will be available to help you in your discussions in relation to assessing your priorities and will be assisting the Department in analysing your initial submissions. He will also be able to liaise between various parties to encourage the partnership working we hope to promote through this exercise.

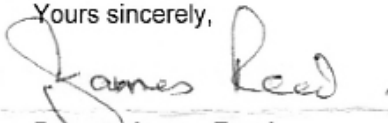
The Department will then consider all the submissions you make, and bring them together into a draft policy plan which we hope will be ready for further consultation with you by the end of April 2010. With the power of such a co-ordinated and cohesive plan, I am sure we will stand a much better chance of championing the sector's agenda within Government, and to the rest of our community, even in these challenging times.

If we are to meet the submission deadline date of 12 March, I hope that you will be able to begin your deliberations now, and I will write again shortly with further details of how to make your submissions to the Department.

I want this to be an inclusive process, and I hope that you will all feel able to become fully involved in this important new initiative, designed to assist your work in a way which is better planned and supported in the future.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Reed". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal dashed line.

Deputy James Reed
Minister for Education
Sport & Culture

direct dial: +44 (0)1534 449437
email: j.reed@gov.je
www.gov.je