



Scottish Women's Convention Response to:

**Historic Environment Scotland Grants Framework
Consultation**

September 2021

Premise

More than five years on from the last refresh of its grant programmes, Historic Environment Scotland are reviewing and updating their approach. They are looking for feedback to ensure that their grant programmes meet the needs of applicants and align with current policy and priorities regarding the historic environment and the wider outcomes it can deliver for society, the economy and the environment.

They have developed a draft HES Grants Framework which sets out this new approach and provides detailed information on why and how they are proposing to do this. This is a draft document that has been developed to guide future grants activity, setting out the background to the refresh and summarising the key changes being proposed to align with their Corporate Plan 'Heritage for All'. They are open to further development of this document, and welcome input from stakeholders on how the direction and details of their plans can be enhanced.

The Scottish Women's Convention (SWC)

The Scottish Women's Convention (SWC) is funded to engage with women throughout Scotland in order that their views might influence public policy. The SWC uses the views of women to respond to a variety of parliamentary, governmental, and organisational consultation papers at both a Scottish and UK level.

The Scottish Women's Convention engages with women using numerous communication channels including roadshow events, thematic conferences, and regional contact groups. This submission provides the views of women and reflects their opinions and experiences in several key areas relevant to women's equality.

The SWC is currently engaging with women through digital roadshows, online surveys, asking women to comment by email and by telephoning those who want to talk. We are also using our wide network to ask women to collate views in their local communities and forward these to us on a regular basis. We are continuing to review innovative ways of engaging with women throughout Scotland using whichever medium is appropriate to them.

1. Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

On behalf of an organisation

2. Have you applied for any HES grants since 2016?

No

3. Which HES grant programme/s have you applied to since 2016? (Please select all that apply)

Not applicable

4. Have you been awarded any HES grants since 2016?

No

5. Under which HES grant programme/s have you been awarded a grant since 2016? (Please select all that apply)

Not applicable

6. Do you feel that the scope of our new Grants Priorities is relevant and appropriately targeted for historic environment projects?

Agree

While we welcome the priorities listed, we believe it would be positive to see a commitment to equalities at the heart of the grant priorities. Please see our response to question twelve for further details.

7. To what extent do you support what is being proposed under Historic Environment Grants (the Open Programme)?

Support

We welcome the tier system to ensure that there are different funding levels for different sizes of organisation.

Coming out of the pandemic, it is well-known that the charity sector is incredibly stretched, especially smaller charities. Therefore, one suggestion we would make is to set a minimum number of projects for each tier, quotas for each tier, or minimum amounts that have to be allocated within each tier. Smaller charities may not be able to compete with the efficiency of larger organisations when it comes to making funding applications, so it is hoped that reserving amounts for all tiers will avoid a situation where the overall pot is emptied by grants from the large grants tier.

Furthermore, in order to demonstrate a genuine commitment to the grant priorities in terms of empowering communities, we would like to see HES offer more support to smaller groups who may not have as much experience or confidence applying for grants. This may include better signposting to advice on how to complete the application process, or more outreach to underrepresented groups or organisations in more deprived areas.

8. Do you feel that the three different tiers of funding proposed under Historic Environment Grants (the Open Programme) are set at the right levels?

Yes

9. What do you think about the new application and decision timeframes being proposed under Historic Environment Grants (the Open Programme)?

Just right

In line with our response to question seven, some consideration does need to be given to the capacity of smaller organisations (for instance community groups who may be entirely run by volunteer) and the speed at which they may be able to apply for funding or respond to supplementary inquiries relating to their application.

10. To what extent do you support the scope of the draft eligible costs for Historic Environment Grants (Open Programme)?

Support

12. As part of this work, we have completed an Equalities Impact Assessment (Initial Screening). Are there any aspects of our proposals which you feel may present a barrier or disadvantage to anyone who may wish to apply for a grant from HES?

We know that there are still issues in terms of access to Scotland's historic environment with many underrepresented groups lacking the opportunities or feeling that the historic environment is not for them. For instance:

- Many disabled people cannot physically access historic environment projects
- People from BAME communities may not feel represented by historic environment projects
- Women are more likely to be in precarious employment and disproportionately take on domestic labour and caring responsibilities. This may mean they have less time and fewer resources to be able to participate in historic environment projects.
- For people without access to private transport, predominantly those from poorer socioeconomic backgrounds and in particular women, may not be able to get to historic environment projects

It is very valuable that across the priorities there is an emphasis on creating jobs, especially for young people. However, one concern would be that the jobs created in this sector tend to be dominated by men (men account for around two thirds of workers in environmental services). We know that women have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic in terms of loss of income and losing their jobs completely, and responsibility has to be taken across all sectors to try to help recovery from this. Moreover, according to a report by the ILO encouraging a need for better gender balance in green jobs, 'Taking into account the gender perspectives allows for targeted actions, creative solution, increased flexibility, better environmental management, effective investment, enhanced cost-recovery, enhanced ownership, enhanced distribution of resources, enhanced empowerment and reduction of poverty.' Therefore, we believe more could be done to try to encourage more diversity among the jobs being created.

Conclusion

The SWC is grateful for the opportunity to respond to Historic Environment Scotland's Grants Framework Consultation. As an organisation, we will continue to work with women from across Scotland to gather voices and experiences relating to this topic and its effects on women's equality.

For further information, please contact

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