NOTE OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ART ADVISORY GROUP
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL 2009

Present:  Robin Harper MSP, Chair
          Ted Brocklebank MSP
          Liz Lochhead
          Jeremy Purvis MSP
          Patricia Ferguson MSP

Apologies  Ian McKee MSP

In attendance:  Fiona McDougall, Art Curator / Exhibitions Manager
                Alan Rennie, Exhibitions Officer (Minutes)

Minutes of last meeting

1. The Group approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

Canongate Wall Project

2. The Art Curator gave an update on the progress of this project, indicating that there had been a good variety of suggestions, including women’s writing, popular song, texts reflecting on the landscape, support for the Treaty of Arbroath, and prose such as quotations by Adam Smith and Thomas Carlyle, amongst others. It was noted that a national newspaper planned to write a piece on the project. The Group were advised that the Parliament’s Media Relations Office had made it clear that the newspaper’s remit was not to unduly influence the outcome; rather that any such publicity generated would be beneficial to the project in terms of increasing the public’s interest and that the subsequent short-listing for selection of a new quote would be by the expert panel.

Acquisitions

3. The Chair updated the Group on the recent acquisitions to the Parliament’s Collection.

SPCB update

4. It was noted that charitable status for the Collection would not be pursued, rather that the Parliament’s Legal team are exploring how to best set up a constitution for the Collection with a view to it being eligible for Accreditation.

The Group also discussed their remit particularly in terms of their role to advise the SPCB on future acquisitions. The Chair of the Group suggested requesting a meeting with the SPCB to discuss further the constitution and procedures for the Group.

ACTION: Chair to draft a letter to the SPCB, circulating to all Group members for their comment, to request a meeting.
Any other business

5. The Group discussed possible future acquisitions for the Collection, with two artists cited who may be considered for representation in the collection.

   It was suggested that the Group may visit the Pittenweem Arts Festival in August.

   **ACTION:** Chair to approach the Secretary of the Festival and Art Curator/Exhibitions Manager to contact the artist's daughter regarding a follow up visit to view remainder of works in storage.

Date of next meeting

6. Tuesday 16 June 2009