Prospect represents 340 members employed by the National Trust for Scotland the vast majority of our members are in permanent posts although we have a few members in the seasonal work force, this represents around 75% of the permanent workforce.

In so far as the bill gives effect to a number of changes contained in both the recommendations and proposals from the Reid review, Prospect, who in broad terms supported the review welcomes many of the changes made.

We recognise that the Governance proposals as already implemented, have indeed simplified and reduced the governance structures within the Trust and so shortened the decision making process. However we have some reservations related to the removal of externally appointed Trustees, (from the many walks of life and the diversity of specialist interests which the Trust cares for) this has both removed a degree of external scrutiny and diverse independent expertise. A side effect of this change has resulted is that power is concentrated in fewer individuals some who are unelected.

We feel that the removal of respected individual specialists from the Governance of a specialist Heritage charity is a retrograde step and was a failing of the Reid review. With the combined loss of both their expertise and their considered judgements.

Prospect has concerns with the new Board structure based on ten elected and 4 co-opted members, and struggles to understand the arrangements applied in a membership based organisation for selecting the “Chairman”

Prospect 11/03/13