Consultation

Did you take part in the consultation exercise which preceded the Bill and, if so, did you comment on the financial assumptions made?

RTPI Scotland was involved in a number of events and discussions before the publication of the Bill. We found these to be useful, informative and positive in responding to issues raised. The financial aspects of the Bill were not discussed in great depth at these events although there were general discussion about the implications of the Historic Environment Scotland having charitable status and the impact that it could have on the broader sector if it competed for charitable funds. There were also general discussions regarding the need to retain adequate levels of resource, and expertise within the new organisation.

We submitted a full response to the consultation. This can be read at http://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/589526/historic_environment_strategy_-_letter_-_31_july_2013.pdf

Do you believe your comments on the financial assumptions have been accurately reflected in the FM?

In our view the Financial Memorandum does a good job in setting out the key financial issues of the move towards setting up Historic Environment Scotland. However, there are a number of points that still require more detail including:

- The anticipated impact of HES having charitable status with regards to it competing for funds with other parts of the historic and built environment sector.
- The impact of the voluntary early exit scheme on staffing levels and the often detailed and specific expertise required in this field.

Did you have sufficient time to contribute to the consultation exercise?

Yes.

Costs

If the Bill has any financial implications for your organisation, do you believe that they have been accurately reflected in the FM? If not, please provide details.

Although RTPI Scotland works with Historic Scotland on planning issues it does not currently receive any direct funding from Historic Scotland or RCAHMS so will not be directly affected by the establishment of the new organisation in a financial sense. However, many of our members work in organisations that may be funded by, or which have close and regular working relationships with these organisations. We realise that the FM states that it is not expected that local authorities, businesses or individuals will incur any additional costs as a result of the Bill and welcome this. Indeed RTPI Scotland is currently supporting Scottish Government and COSLA to clarify key roles and responsibilities in key delivery areas such as designation
advice, regulation and related management regimes building on joint working agreements between Historic Scotland and local authorities. However, it would be useful if there was greater clarity with regards to impacts for third sector historic and built environment organisations. As stated earlier, the FM is not clear on the implications of HES having charitable status. We appreciate that it is difficult to provide certainty on the new organisation’s grant giving regime however more detail would be welcomed on this if possible.

We would also like to have more detail on the impact that the voluntary early exit scheme will have on the levels of expertise available to the new organisation. HES will need to be able to provide and access specific expertise on the historic built environment to undertake its tasks effectively and efficiently.

*Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM are reasonable and accurate?*
No comment. We do not feel properly qualified to answer this.

*If applicable, are you content that your organisation can meet any financial costs that it might incur as a result of the Bill? If not, how do you think these costs should be met?*
Although RTPI Scotland works with Historic Scotland on planning issues it does not currently receive any direct funding from Historic Scotland or RCAHMS so will not be directly affected by the establishment of the new organisation in a financial sense.

*Does the FM accurately reflect the margins of uncertainty associated with the Bill’s estimated costs and with the timescales over which they would be expected to arise?*
No comment. We do not feel properly qualified to answer this.

**Wider Issues**
*Do you believe that the FM reasonably captures any costs associated with the Bill? If not, which other costs might be incurred and by whom?*
There are currently a number of unknowns given that the new organisation has not been established yet and its Board and senior management have not been appointed. They will have an influence on how the organisation functions and operates within the context of the Bill. Given this, there may be some merit in the Committee maintaining an ongoing overview of the transition process in case issues arise in the future.

*Do you believe that there may be future costs associated with the Bill, for example through subordinate legislation? If so, is it possible to quantify these costs?*
See answer to question 8.