The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Public Audit Committee

Stephen Uphill
Interim Chief Executive
Historic Environment Scotland

26 November 2026

Dear Mr Uphill

The 2025/26 audit of Historic Environment Scotland

The Public Audit Committee looks forward to hearing from you on the above report by the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS) at its meeting on 17 December 2026.

In advance of the meeting, I am writing to you regarding the register of interests for Historic Environment Scotland's Executive Leadership Team. In his report, the AGS states that—

"A register of interest is now in place for the Executive Leadership Team. To enhance its commitment to transparency and accountability, Historic Environment Scotland should consider publishing the Executive Leadership Team register in line with the approach adopted for board members."

During our evidence session with the AGS on 19 November 2026, the Committee heard that HES's position was to not publish the register of interests for its Executive Leadership Team. The Committee agrees with the AGS that while there is no legal requirement for a register of interests to be maintained, publishing the interests of senior managers of public bodies ensures transparency and public confidence in the delivery of public services and the use of public money.

On that basis, we ask that you publish the register of interest for your Executive Leadership Team before giving evidence to the Committee on 17 December 2026 or provide us with your reasons for not doing so, which we can then explore further during the evidence session.

I would welcome a response by **11 December 2026.**

Yours sincerely,

Neil Bibby

Neil Bibby MSP, Convener

Contact: Public Audit Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP.
Email publicaudit.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.