



The Rt Hon George Reid  
Strategic Review  
The National Trust for Scotland  
28 Charlotte Square  
EDINBURGH  
EH2 4ET

Scottish Environment LINK  
2 Grosvenor House  
Shore Road  
Perth  
PH2 8BD

Tel 01738 630804  
Fax 01738 643290

enquiries@scotlink.org  
www.scotlink.org

25 March 2010

Dear Mr Reid

National Trust for Scotland Strategic Review

The National Trust for Scotland has played an active part in the voluntary environment movement over the last two decades and has a very important role to play in future development and delivery of Scotland's policies for landscape and nature conservation. The Trust was a founder member of Scottish Environment LINK, the network which brings together Scotland's voluntary environment sector. The review which you are undertaking was discussed at a recent meeting of LINK Board members, on whose behalf I am making this submission.

As you will be aware, there have been close working relationships between the Trust and other non-governmental organisations in LINK about a wide range of policy issues and advocacy over legislation relating to Scotland's environment. The Trust's membership of quarter of a million people shows the high level of public interest and results in particularly significant reach in terms of conservation advocacy messages.

The collective voice of these organisations has been critical in terms of the sector's influence with Scotland's decision makers and in relation to developing policy on Scotland's natural and cultural heritage. We hope the Trust will continue to engage through LINK with the network and enjoy the added value of collaborative effort, stronger voice in national debate, strategic planning of approach and tactics, as well access to information and contacts.

We appreciate the challenges which the organisation has in establishing an appropriate structure and rationalising its operations in today's Scotland. It is important that, in addition to managing its properties the NTS allocates sufficient resources to enable it to play its role in advocacy in relation to the big environmental debates with government, Parliament and other major stakeholders. This will be the more important in an era of 'squeeze' on available national resources.

Scottish Environment  The voice of Scotland's environment movement


Registered Office: 2 Grosvenor House, Shore Road, Perth PH2 8BD. A Scottish Charity under Scottish Charity No SC000296.  
Scottish Environment LINK is a Scottish Company Limited by guarantee and without a share capital under Company No SC250899.



The voluntary status of the NTS is a critical factor in its future development; the Trust is, like other LINK member bodies, "citizen led", independent of government and its agencies; this is vital in modern Scotland if we are to remain a representative and unique voice. The attributes of non-governmental organisations are clearly and widely recognised as important at local, state and international levels. Whilst there will be valuable opportunity for collaborative work with government bodies such as Historic Scotland, it will be important to maintain an understanding of their different roles.

I hope you will find these observations useful and would be very happy to discuss any points further with you, should you wish.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ian G McCall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I'.

Ian McCall  
Chair

LINK email [ian@scotlink.org](mailto:ian@scotlink.org)  
Mobile number 07553 408550