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Your ref: AMH/12968/1/1
Our ref: SMC-ABC-003
25 April 2018

Dear Madam

**ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979
THE SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT (NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATIONS)
DIRECTION 2015
SNALL SCALE TRENCH OVER DITCH TO ANSWER SPECIFIC RESEARCH
QUESTIONS AT SITE D, ST MARY'S ABBEY, IONA, MONASTIC SETTLEMENT**

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 24 April 2018, relating to the above development, notified to the Scottish Ministers in accordance with the Schedule of the above Direction.

The period within which the Scottish Ministers may require you to refer the application to them for decision is 28 days from 24 April 2018, provided that the period may be extended before it expires if necessary to allow the Scottish Ministers to complete their consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully

ALEX KERR