



Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity
Lorna Slater MSP

7th May 2023

Dear Minister,

Ministerial visit to Isle of Rum planned for Friday 12th May 2023

We are delighted that you plan to visit Rum. We agree that this would be an excellent opportunity to progress the work to date on both the Castle and wider island issues. The last year has been a particularly busy one for the community and for the IRCT and whilst by no means our only challenge, the Castle has been a significant focus for our energies.

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IRCT will hold an AGM within the next few weeks to recruit new members to grow and strengthen our Board and also recruit a new Chair.

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Whilst we feel that much could still be made of your visit of great value for the community, it clearly comes at a particularly challenging moment for the IRCT. And as the principal representative body for the island community, it would be very disappointing if you were not able to meet with Board members whilst you were on Rum.

We fully appreciate that your own timetable must be incredibly busy and SENTENCE REACTED. And we stand very willing to continue to play our part in helping to make that happen. However, would it be possible, to ask if an alternative date could be found that would allow both a better representation of voices from across the community and also from a hopefully enlarged and rejuvenated IRCT Board? And/or the use of a zoom meeting as an interim or an additional option?

We hope that one of the above suggestions is possible, but we will make every effort to make a success, for our part, of whatever you propose.

Kindest regards

Sincerely



NAME REDACTED

On behalf of the IRCT Board.



Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity
Lorna Slater MSP

9th March 2023

Dear Lorna Slater,

Sale of Kinloch Castle, Isle of Rum

We are writing to update you on what is happening on Rum, from the community perspective.

Firstly, can we thank you and your officials for your support so far. NAME REDACTED has been very helpful and his department very positive to work with. The Land Commission has succeeded in bringing the parties together to work towards a sustainable solution. We have had some useful discussions chaired by Hamish Trench. And now also with NAME REDACTED at Historic Environment Scotland.

What has become clear over the last 3 months is that a new future for Kinloch Castle is possible. We are very keen to be given the time and opportunity to explore what this future could look like.

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Scottish Government

We have made huge progress in a very short period of time. SENTENCE REDACTED. Your support and encouragement has been pivotal to this. We are very grateful for the offer of financial support via the Islands Policy Unit, however it has proved incredibly challenging to spend meaningfully within such a constrained time period (to end of financial year). We would like to use this or other SG support to instead further investigations into a broader approach to the Castle's future, including the possibility of alternative outcomes to restoration. This would include employing a Project Manager and bringing in specialist resource to fully explore what could be possible. As IRCT we will continue to commit significant time and our own staff resource to ensuring we create a sustainable future for Rum.

We would like therefore to use the SG resource on offer to do this. It is likely to take 6 months to complete and, if approved, we would look to appoint someone early in the next financial year. Your flexibility and support to do this would be very much appreciated.

We assure you of our continued engagement in the process of securing a sustainable future for Rum and its community.

With best wishes

Sincerely




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Isle of Rum Community Trust

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NAME REDACTED
Isle of Rum Community Trust

2 May 2023

Dear NAME REDACTED

Thank you for your email of 31 March following up your original letter of 9 March regarding progress and next steps on Kinloch Castle.

I know that officials in the Sponsorship Hub have been in contact with NAME REDACTED while recent changes to Ministerial responsibilities have been confirmed and I am grateful for your patience.

I am also keen to build on work to date, and widen the scope of our considerations on the best way forward for the island of Rum and the potential role of Kinloch Castle.

I will be visiting Rum on Friday 12 May with colleagues from NatureScot. I would like to use my visit to take soundings from the local community and engage further with the Isle of Rum Community Trust (IRCT) and Rum Community Association on potential options going forward. I have asked my officials to pull together a programme and colleagues will be in touch shortly to confirm arrangements.

Clearly, the governance work that IRCT has been progressing recently both in relation to the castle and wider community aspirations is of critical importance moving forward. I am looking forward to hearing your thoughts on this work as well as any other opportunities or suggestions you might have on how we work together going forward.

In the meantime, I would encourage continued engagement with NatureScot, who I know are keen to co-ordinate discussions with the Scottish Land Commission (SLC) and Historic Environment Scotland (HES).

Kind regards



LORNA SLATER