

Valuing Volunteers Consultation
Policy Team
Historic Scotland

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HISTORIC SCOTLAND OPERATIONAL POLICY FOR PROMOTING VOLUNTEERING

1. HEACS is grateful for the opportunity to comment on this document
2. HEACS welcomes the document and considers it to be well balanced.

Volunteers' relationship with Historic Scotland

3. With reference to paragraph 2.5 HEACS would observe that current thinking on the relationship between the organisation and volunteers describes it as a reciprocal or mutual-benefit relationship, rather than a 'gift' relationship, which implies one-way benefit. The fact that the need has been felt here to set it in quotes suggests some unease.

Volunteering in the Voluntary Sector

4. HEACS welcomes the statement in paragraph 2.23. It should add that, where necessary, organisations can be encouraged to contact Volunteer Development Scotland for advice and information on this. Historic Scotland may also want to consider encouraging concordat organisations to follow its example and develop a policy. It should also take into account in grant awards the cost to organisations of engaging volunteers and supporting their work.

Historic Scotland involvement in key volunteering initiatives

5. HEACS welcomes the statement in paragraph 2.24. This statement could be extended to include people from other groups who are under-represented in volunteering.

The historic environment sector as a whole

6. HEACS recommends that Historic Scotland broaden its policy to include a recognition of the wide range of involvement of volunteers in the sector as a whole, and to look at ways of recognising and promoting their contribution.

Malcolm Bangor-Jones
Secretary