

Professor James Garden
Chair, Edinburgh World Heritage Board of Trustees

Sent by email: O.J.Garden@ed.ac.uk

26th August 2021

Dear Professor Garden,

New Town World Heritage Site and Communal Bin Hubs

We are writing to you on behalf of the Stockbridge and Inverleith Community Council (SICC) and all the Residents' Associations within SICC's area which currently use the gull-proof bag and recycling box scheme to manage household waste.

We wish to request your assistance in persuading the City of Edinburgh Council to reverse the decision taken by the Transport and Environment Committee meeting on 22nd April 2021 to discontinue this admirable scheme and to replace the collection of refuse in the World Heritage Site with Communal Bin Hubs. These fixed and permanent structures will involve a cluster of 5 - 7 waste bins sited every 50 metres on the New Town's most architecturally important streets. This decision was taken with no prior consultation with ourselves or any apparent input from those having heritage expertise.

We wish to express our serious disappointment at the position Edinburgh World Heritage [EWH] appears to be taking on this important issue. It has been confirmed to us that there has been no change in the EWH position in supporting the gull-proof bag service in the terrace streets and squares of the New Town because of their heritage quality, and Director Christina Sinclair is quoted in emails advising that 'EWH is in support of gull proof bags as the best solution in heritage terms'. Yet in a recent letter to Angus Robertson, MSP, the Council advises that it has commenced engagement with EWH to determine 'final designs to integrate the communal bin review parameters with the specific EWH requirements and suggestions.' This would seem to imply EWH's acceptance of the broad proposals?

Our concerns have already been raised in a letter to the Director, also sent today.

We feel that EWH should make a clear public statement opposing this change and we would urge you to consider this.

Yours sincerely,

Tannis Dodd

Secretary, Stockbridge and Inverleith Community Council