

## **CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL (PORTOBELLO PARK) BILL**

### **REPLY TO CONVENER FROM MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING IN RELATION TO COMMON GOOD LAND**

Thank you for your letter of 14 November, in which you asked whether the Scottish Government has any plans to address generally the legal obstacle to change of use of inalienable common good land that has been brought to the Committee's attention during its preliminary consideration of the Portobello Park Bill.

As the Committee is aware, and as the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth made clear in his correspondence last year with the City of Edinburgh Council, this is a complex issue. The Scottish Government has not reached any decisions on the subject. However, we recognise the importance of the issue and will be considering it further. That consideration will take into account the submissions to the Committee and also any relevant comments that may be made in responses to our consultation on the forthcoming Community Empowerment Bill, which will include provisions on greater transparency in the management and disposal of the Common Good. I will keep the Committee informed of developments.

Derek Mackay MSP  
Minister for Local Government and Planning  
21 November 2013