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Dr Kevin Pelan  
Communities Committee Clerk  
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Our ref: GM-1196-2016

20 September 2016

Dear Kevin,

**COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITIES - CULTURAL PROPERTY (ARMED CONFLICTS)  
BILL: LEGISLATIVE CONSENT MOTION**

I refer to your request dated 15 September 2016 in which you advise that the Committee has requested information in relation to the mechanism that would determine how cultural property will be designated as part of the Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Bill.

The designation of 'something' as cultural property does not have any mechanism in the Westminster Bill. In order to implement the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, the United Kingdom Government will need to develop a criteria in order to identify cultural property within the meaning of Article 1 of the Convention, that is "movable or immovable property of great importance to the cultural heritage of every people". Such property is granted general protection under the Convention and its Protocols. This definition is set out at **Annex A**.

The Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) have started to work through the details of what the criteria will be and when and how the scheme will come into operation. DCMS have also confirmed that all of the Devolved Administrations and their relevant agencies and bodies will be fully involved in the development of the criteria which is expected to be consistent across the UK.

However, once the criteria is set, there is no requirement that the Cultural Property Emblem be displayed on all structures associated with the Convention. It will only be



mandatory in regard to structures given enhanced protection. This is expected to include a very small number of properties across the UK.

Yours sincerely

PP  
Michael Shine

Billy Crawford  
Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer  
Minister and Permanent Secretary's Office



**Definition of Cultural Property**

In the Bill 'cultural property' is as defined in Article 1 of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. For that purpose 'cultural property' shall cover, irrespective of origin or ownership:

(a) movable or immovable property of great importance to the cultural heritage of every people, such as monuments of architecture, art or history, whether religious or secular; archaeological sites; groups of buildings which, as a whole, are of historical or artistic interest; works of art; manuscripts, books and other objects of artistic, historical or archaeological interest; as well as scientific collections and important collections of books or archives or of reproductions of the property defined above;

(b) buildings whose main and effective purpose is to preserve or exhibit the movable cultural property defined in sub-paragraph (a) such as museums, large libraries and depositories of archives, and refuges intended to shelter, in the event of armed conflict, the movable cultural property defined in sub-paragraph (a);

(c) centers containing a large amount of cultural property as defined in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b), to be known as 'centers containing monuments'.