



By email:
Planning Department
The Highland Council

eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Our Case ID: H/05/07
Your ref: **17/00152/LBC**
Date 17th Feb 2017

Re: Old Manse, Garve Road, Ullapool IV26 2SX

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above planning application relating to the renewal of the slate roof on this B-listed former manse.

While the Forth & Borders Cases Panel of the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland (AHSS) appreciates the need to renew the roof, given its state of disrepair, we are concerned that the proposed use of SIGA 35 slates from Spain would result in a regrettable loss of character due to the uniformity, flatness and (at only 8mm) thinness of this type of material. Scots slates are highly textured and are random in width, length and thickness, and it is therefore important in order to maintain the roof's character that any replacement should match the colour, thickness and texture of the existing tiles.

While we accept that Scots slate is no longer quarried, a skilful slater, who is familiar with Scottish slating practice, should be able to identify which of the existing slates are sound enough for reuse; these could then be used on the front elevation, supplemented if necessary with imported second-hand Scots slates. Elsewhere, the applicant might consider the use of Welsh slate in order to maintain the character of this listed building. In support of our argument we note that Historic Environment Scotland's guidance, 'Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Roofs' (p.2), states that it is important to 'protect the special interest of [a listed] building through the re-use of existing historic materials and close matching of new materials'.

The AHSS would therefore like to object to this application.

Yours faithfully,

Alastair Disley
on behalf of
Forth & Borders Cases Panel