



Ann Faulds
CMS Cameron McKenna LLP
Saltire Court
20 Castle Street
EDINBURGH
EH1 2EN

Our ref:
4 April 2017

Dear Ms Faulds

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT FORMER ROYAL HIGH SCHOOL, EDINBURGH
APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - 17/00588/FUL
APPLICATION FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT - 17/00587/LBC**

Thank you for your letter of 22 February 2017, on behalf of Duddingston House Properties/Urbanist Hotels Ltd, and subsequent e-mail from your colleague, Mark McMurray, on 28 February 2017. Ministers have considered your request for the above applications to be called in and conjoined with the appeals, in respect of the applications submitted by your clients in 2015.

As you are aware, the general principle under which the planning system operates is that decisions should be taken at the most local administrative level unless there are compelling reasons for taking them at a higher level. This is consistent with the Government's general policy of leaving local issues to be decided by local authorities.

Ministers are satisfied that the current applications are for the City of Edinburgh Council, as planning authority, to deal with and there is no reason for Ministers to become involved at this time.

I have copied this letter to the City of Edinburgh Council.

Yours sincerely

LYNDSEY MURRAY