



## Speaking for Scotland's Buildings

5 October 2021

Strategic Place Planning  
Aberdeen City Council  
Business Hub 4  
Ground Floor North  
Marischal College  
Broad Street  
Aberdeen AB10 1AB

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Planning Application Ref:** 211326/LBC

**Site Address:** Denburn House, Union Terrace

**Description:** conversion of three empty office buildings to flats

The Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland exists to research, to celebrate to support initiatives aimed at retaining such buildings and landscapes in use, and where threatened to defend historic buildings of merit. We welcome a proposal to re-use these empty buildings of landmark status as flats. However, this application is flawed in our judgement, and we therefore **Object** to it.

Its site overlooking the Union Terrace Gardens, and in full view to and from the critically important civic sites of the Denburn Viaduct and Schoolhill deserves the utmost care and attention: this proposal which is *strong* on convention and platitude is sadly weak otherwise and ought to be remitted for further development before any re-submissions are considered. The provision of a further series of small flats accessed by long corridors with a provision of only 20 car parking spaces into a city already so well provided with such suggests a poverty of ambition.

The buildings into which these would be put deserve much attention, and imaginative re-use. In terms of sizes, planning, and their spatial aspects [eg why should they all have the same minimum ceiling heights?] the host structures could accommodate a much wider range of ambition. Parts might be used as a whole range of domestic uses from hostel to fancy hotel, in sizes from single to family use, also providing live-work accommodation. All these functions [plus others] could be provided at environmentally exacting standards. All that is needed is imaginative application of thought

We would be grateful if the above points could be taken into consideration.

Yours faithfully,

**Dr W. A. Brogden**

Cases Panel Convenor

AHSS North East Group