

12th September 2017

President Henderson
The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland
15 Rutland Square
EDINBURGH
EH1 2BE

Dear President Henderson,

A New Chapter

In your first President's Introduction within the Summer 2017 RIAS Quarterly you state that you have asked '*a small group of long-serving, senior members of Council*' to join you in a review of the Incorporation's Governance and Code of Conduct.

We write to note both our interest and concern regarding the outcomes flowing from this specific statement. We welcome any review into governance and conduct, but note that this is to be conducted by a small, internal group. This cannot be in the interests of either clarity or transparency.

The RIAS is a membership body that was established to organise and unite architects in Scotland. Instead, it could be argued that any internal review is at risk of being self-serving and opaque. It would not openly unite or embolden architects. It would miss the opportunity to consider how the RIAS, and thus the profession, might better respond to society's changing needs and demands.

We therefore write to you as our *primus inter pares* to request greater clarification - and transparency - regarding the methods being employed within the RIAS to review both historical and future decision-making and governance. We would also ask that this be extended to cover public representation and the Incorporation's broader aims, relevance and impact in the forum of debate in the built environment in Scotland.

We would also ask that any statement addresses specific concerns as follows:

- Strategy/Vision: The most recent RIAS Quarterly refers to a Five-Year Strategy for the Incorporation. We are unaware of any mechanisms or actions taken by the RIAS to openly invite members to positively contribute towards this. We therefore seek clarification on how the process of engagement is to be carried out.
- Staff costs: The accounts contained within the Summer 2017 RIAS Quarterly P93 refer to staff costs of £477,997. The figures also refer to additional consultant costs of £149,052. This particular section of the accounts also highlights that '*In 2016 one member of staff had emoluments between £90,000 and £100,000 (between £80,000 and £90,000 in 2015).*' As members, we seek greater clarification regarding these costs, to whom they have been paid and how these were promoted, attributed and agreed.

- Public Statements: At present public statements are rarely presented by the President, Council or RIAS members. We propose that the Incorporation recognise the rich diversity of talent and expertise within the profession by instituting alternative ways in which public statements might be arranged and delivered.

When considering the above, we have little confidence that the senior management of RIAS and its trustees as represented by Council and Presidents Policy Committee within the incorporation, fully represents or respects the interests, ambition and challenges currently faced by its members. We therefore seek greater transparency, relevance and action from within the RIAS Council and Senior Management to address these concerns.

In order to commence this process, we ask that the RIAS Council implement the following key recommendations at their next Council meeting:

- Allow members to review the RIAS Charter and any draft 5 Year Strategy so they can influence how this might be actioned and applied to create a dynamic, relevant and inclusive membership body fit for the 21st Century;
- Provide members with greater clarification of the various roles and responsibilities within the Incorporation and their associated methods of appointment;
- Allow the membership to elect their President, rather than Council;
- Consider how public statements are made on behalf of the RIAS and its members, and
- Carry out an independent, third party review to investigate and resolve historical issues of concern over governance and to recommend actions for future operations, conduct and governance.

Yours sincerely,

Jude Barber
Paul Stallan
Malcolm Fraser
Chris Platt
Helen Lucas
Charlie Hussey
Andrew Duncan
John Gilbert
Matt Bridgestock
Gillies MacPhail
Chris Stewart
Matt Loader
Iain Monteith
Sam Foster
Robin Webster
Emma Wood
Oliver Chapman
Andy Campbell
Matt McKenna
Gordon Fleming
Ross Hunter

David Jamieson
Mark Kilkenny
Ian Springford
Fiona McNeill
Ben Addy
Akiko Kobayashi
Calum Duncan
Paul Barham
Jim Johnson
Chris Coleman-Smith
Nick Domminney
Bill Black, Director
Lauren Li Porter
Lesley Palmer
Gerry Hogan
Gillian Hanley
Adrian Stewart
Michael Roper
Robin Sutherland
Alasdair Stephen
William Tunnell
Peter Richardson
Andrew Brown
Graeme Massie
Tim Gray
Calum MacDonald
David Gardner
Isabel Garriga Serrano
Chris Morgan
Peter McLaughlan
Peter Johnson
Karen Manson
Jackie Walsh
Anne Duff
Kieran Gaffney
Professor Alan Dunlop

The following people working within the profession and the built environment have noted their support to the RIAS Members who have signed this letter:

Suzanne Ewing
Jonathan Charley
David Reat
Peter Wilson
Charlie Sutherland
Sean Douglas
Neal Whitaker
Kerry Nicol
Graham Currie
Hazel Grant
Lee Ivett
Andy Summers
Fiona Welch
Nicola Mclachlan
Tamsin Cunningham
Susie Turley
Thomas Fitzgerald
Eilidh Izat
Lucie Tinsdale
Calum Robinson
Ewan Imrie
Patricia Fleming
Chris Dobson

Note:

This letter was updated on 9th November 2017 to list signatories by name only.