

Mr Iain Thomas  
Culloch School House  
Blairinroar  
Comrie  
PH6 2JG

7 September 07

**Our ref: RC/EB/7699**  
**Please quote this reference**  
**in all correspondence**

Dear Mr Thomas,

**Comrie Development Trust – Community Land Purchase of Cultybraggan**

Forgive me waiting until now to outline what I have been doing but as well as being out of the country for part of the last few weeks, the meetings and/or communications I have had with various individuals have been spread over a period of time.

Initially, I met with representatives of Comrie Development Trust to ascertain the position from their perspective. As you might expect, they were confident that everything was being done in a competent manner. They were keen to draw attention to the fact that they have only ever had some £10,000 of Lottery Fund money and indeed I understand that has continued to be the position.

When I contacted Highlands and Islands Enterprise, they reassured me that in their view nothing untoward had taken place – and indeed some of the delays were fairly normal given the circumstances. They were certainly of the view that the buyout was perfectly competent to proceed.

At that point, I was out of Scotland for a week and when I returned I saw the email you sent to Dharmendra Kanani of the Big Lottery Fund. I felt it important to speak to him too and duly did so. I am bound to say that he remains very enthusiastic about the Project.

I have to say therefore that I haven't personally seen any reason why I would step into the process with a view to delaying the buyout or bringing it to an end. I appreciate that this is not the response you were seeking but I note that I have had no other concerns expressed to me about CDT's handling of the Project apart from yourself and your partner. I also note that although the formal vote to proceed which was taken recently comprised only the members of the Trust, the postal ballot which had been conducted, though not part of the formal decision-making process, was nevertheless overwhelmingly in favour of the Project going ahead.

Accordingly, I am indicating to the Trust that I will be welcoming the buyout and I look forward to continued progress with the Project.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roseanna Cunningham MSP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roseanna Cunningham MSP