

Neil – this is a note subsequent to our telephone conversation on 2 October about the potential for sharing office accommodation premises in the Oban area and an outline of the issue which was initially raised with me at the last meeting of the Community Planning Partnership on Friday, 4 July 2008. Andrew Campbell from SNH was aware of our potential office changes in Oban and had suggested at that meeting that we contact the Scottish Government regarding the potential for sharing of office facilities. In particular he mentioned the need for better meeting rooms in Oban for use of public sector bodies.

Regarding this latter point I think the facilities owned and occupied by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue give an excellent resource for medium sized meetings. On the subject of the potential for further sharing between the public sector I have spoken to a couple of folk in the Scottish Government ending up with the best contact being Maureen Garvie in their Estates Section in Edinburgh at 0131 244 4275. While Maureen was fairly sure that the direct property involvement of the Scottish Government in relation to Cameron House in Oban would be able to offer much by way of benefit to Council services, she did suggest that we speak with the Forestry Commission representative at their Dumfries office where the Head of Estates, Lawrie Tyson has his office. She also thought there would be some movement around the Department of Work and Pensions Building in Mathieson House and suggested two contacts in regard to that operation and also that of Her Majesty Revenue and Customs. These are as follows:-

DWP – Peter Munro – 0131 222 5133
HMRC – Andy Thomson – 0191 225 1401

As you progress our Options Appraisal perhaps you would make a point of getting in touch with the relevant players outlined in this note should there be a benefit to the overall public sector position in the Oban area.

Jean Millar on behalf of Andrew Law

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