

DEPARTMENT FOR CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT	
MINISTER	S.O.S
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Permanent Secretary Grade 3 ()	S.O. del's
Head of Information Private Secretary ()	File Number CMS/120810
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WINDSOR CASTLE

*Advice /
draft reply.*

16th June, 2009

Dear Ben,

Now that you have moved up in the world as Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, I did just want to send you my congratulations and best wishes for this appointment.

As you may know, the Arts are rather close to my own heart and at some stage your officials may brief you about the constructive partnerships that have already been formed with organizations I have founded, such as The Prince's Drawing School, The Prince's Foundation for Children and the Arts and Arts & Business.

If you ever had a moment at some point in the fairly near future it would be marvellous to have a chance to discuss various heritage matters – particularly the issue around the conversion and re-use of major historic sites, many of which are lying derelict and abandoned by unscrupulous owners, but which could so effectively become the catalyst for heritage-led regeneration in different parts of the country. My Regeneration Trust has worked for many years now to help initiate such schemes and my experience has invariably been that they are a great success. As many of these historic sites are often in fairly deprived areas, their re-vitalization can make a big difference. Not only that, but I do feel we owe it to those dedicated craftsmen who built the buildings in the first place, and many of whose descendants probably still live in the area, to bring their dedicated workmanship back to life.

Yours most sincere

Prince Charles
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