

18 [Evan]



CLARENCE HOUSE
LONDON SW1A 1BA

From: The Assistant Private Secretary to HRH The Prince of Wales

DEPARTMENT FOR CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT	
MINISTER	SOS
LEAD	V...
ACTION	131/0
Permanent Secretary	SRADP
Grade 3 (BJ)	
Head of Information	
Private Secretary	NO
MSU - file	File Number C 1

RESTRICTED: ENGAGEMENTS (until 18 December 2004)

5 October 2004

Dear Heather,

I understand from Kathy Hasler at The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment that she has been in touch with you in the last days to invite your Secretary of State to attend a conference to be hosted by the Foundation at Shoreditch on Thursday, 18 November entitled "Local Identity in a Fast Track Age". The aim of the day is to create a set of practical recommendations on how to balance local identity with the need for more efficient, low-cost, fast-track production techniques for housing.

Knowing the Secretary of State's interest in, and recognition of, 'local identity', The Prince of Wales thought that the Minister might welcome an invitation to join the delegates for some, or all, of the event to provide a perspective on this specific and vital aspect of urban design. Indeed, His Royal Highness wondered whether the Secretary of State might wish to say a few words, say 3-4 minutes' duration, on her perspective immediately before His Royal Highness speaks?

Last year, the Foundation hosted a similar conference at which the Deputy Prime Minister spoke; that conference led to a positive partnership working between the ODPM and the Foundation, as well as an urban design skills training workshop which is now successfully touring seven of the Regional Development Agencies. The conference this year will be attended by 100 or so senior practitioners in urban design and architecture, including leaders of the RDAs and Government agencies, NGOs, house-builders and developers; I have asked Kathy to send you some further details.

I know The Prince of Wales would be delighted if the Secretary of State were able to attend perhaps the afternoon session of the conference when he is present and I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience once you have had a moment to discuss it with your Minister. I should also indicate that His Royal Highness has also asked me to invite the Minister for Housing and Planning, Keith Hill MP (whom he met recently when he showed the Minister around Poundbury) given his policy responsibilities and I am waiting to hear from his Private Office to see if that is possible.

Yours sincerely,
Paul Kefford

Ms Heather Rogers

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Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Heather Rogers OBE
From the Secretary of State's office

2-4 Cockspur Street
London SW1Y 5DH
www.culture.gov.uk

Tel 020 7211 6243
Fax 020 7211 6249
heather.rogers
@culture.gsi.gov.uk

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Paul Kefford
Assistant Private Secretary to HRH The Prince of Wales
Clarence House
LONDON
SW1A 1BA

19 October 2004



Dear Paul

Thank you for your letter of 5 October 2004 inviting my Secretary of State to attend The Prince's Foundation's conference 'The Place of Dwellings: local identity in a fast-track age' on 18 November.

Local identity and the built environment are topics the Secretary of State has a very keen interest in and she would have been delighted to attend the conference and to address the audience.

Unfortunately, due to a longstanding diary commitment, the Secretary of State won't be able to attend the conference and sends her sincerest apologies.

I have copied this letter to Kathy Hasler and Michael Mehaffy at The Prince's Foundation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heather'.

HEATHER ROGERS OBE
Principal Private Secretary

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+ 101

cc Kathy Hasler
Michael Mehaffy
Heather Rogers

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