

[REDACTED]

Date 14 November 2013

Your ref

Our ref BM

Dear Sir/Madam

CHARLOTTE SQUARE PUBLIC REALM  
TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER TRO/12/23 AND REDETERMINATION ORDER  
RSO/12/02

I am writing to you further to the letter of 5 May 2013 from the City of Edinburgh Council advising you that your objection to the above Orders has been referred to a public hearing, in terms of The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 1999.

Mr Robert F Loughridge LLB LARTPI has now been appointed as the independent Reporter responsible for conducting that public hearing and I have been appointed Programme Officer to assist him in the administration of the process. To ensure impartiality, all correspondence between the Reporter and objectors, or the Reporter and the City of Edinburgh Council, should be channelled through me. As stipulated by the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA), the body responsible for conducting hearings, I have had no involvement in the project, nor do I have any personal interests in it.

The City of Edinburgh Council have provided the Reporter with all relevant background documents, i.e. Planning Application and Approval papers, Traffic Regulation Orders and letters of objection, Council Committee reports, Traffic Modelling reports, etc.,

Based on that information generally, and on the objections in particular, the Reporter is proposing to divide the hearing into a number of self-contained, though obviously related, topics. He has allocated two days — **14 and 15 January 2014** — to the hearing, always with the proviso that that can be extended, if necessary. A venue has still to be arranged but the intention is that it will be in a city centre location. I will write to you again when I have that information.

**Bernard Mukwaira, Programme Officer, Services for Communities**  
Transport, C2, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh EH8 8BG  
Tel 0131 469 3722 Fax 0131 529 6201 [bernard.mukwaira@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:bernard.mukwaira@edinburgh.gov.uk)

Subject to any representations which may be received by him (see below), the topics the Reporter has identified are:

- 1 To consider the existing traffic patterns and volumes in and around Charlotte Square;
- 2 To consider the impact of the proposals upon the existing vehicular, cycle and pedestrian traffic on Charlotte Square and its immediate environs;
- 3 To consider how displaced vehicular traffic might disperse through adjoining streets, and how widely dispersal might be expected; and
- 4 To compare the benefits said to accrue from the scheme, if it were implemented, against the perceived disadvantages elsewhere in the immediate locale or more generally.

Rather than an adversarial presentation with evidence and cross-examination, each topic session will take the form of a structured discussion chaired by the Reporter.

**I would be grateful if you would now confirm if you wish to be heard and, if so, which of the above sessions you would wish to contribute to.** You may choose to be represented at the hearing, although that is not necessary, and again I would ask that you confirm who your representative will be and which session(s) they would wish to attend. Equally, you may not wish to be heard, but in that event you should be assured that the Reporter will consider all of the original objector submissions in making any recommendations.

It should be noted that the City of Edinburgh Council are not bound to accept the Reporter's recommendations, but if the Authority proposes to promote an Order "*at variance with the recommendations of the reporter*" the Regulations require the Authority to submit "*a statement of the authority's reasons for not accepting the relevant recommendations*" to the Scottish Government. If the Minister then wishes to intervene, he has the power to direct that the authority does not make the proposed order

If you do not wish to be heard you do not need to respond to this letter. In that event you will not receive further correspondence in relation to the hearing but I will write to you in the fullness of time to advise you of the outcome. If I do not hear back from you I will assume you do not wish to be heard.

As it is a public hearing, everyone is welcome to attend and to listen to the proceedings whether they wish to contribute or not. Limited seating will be provided for that.

**The Reporter requires all those wishing to be heard**, whether in person or through their representative, **to submit a short statement outlining their position for that session**. The statement should focus on the matter at hand and should be accompanied by any documents, data or illustrative material to which they wish to draw the Reporter's attention. The Reporter requires hard copies of any such statements and supporting material but additional copies electronically would be helpful. **Any such material should be submitted to the Reporter, through me, by Wednesday 18 December 2013**. I will arrange for the exchange of documents between parties (objectors and the City of Edinburgh Council), prior to the hearing.

Facilities to project computer images will be provided at the venue for those who need it.

The Reporter will prepare a more detailed agenda for each session, if necessary, in the light of the statements produced by participants. That will be circulated nearer the time of the hearing. He notes that a final session for closing statements can be accommodated, if either objectors or the City of Edinburgh Council require it.

All correspondence should be addressed to me at:

Bernard Mukwaira  
Programme Officer  
Transport  
The City of Edinburgh Council  
Services for Communities  
Waverley Court (C2)  
Edinburgh  
EH8 8BG

I can also be contacted at [bernard.mukwaira@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:bernard.mukwaira@edinburgh.gov.uk) or on 0131 469 3722.

Yours faithfully

*BERNARD MUKWAIRA*

**Bernard Mukwaira  
Programme Officer  
(Transport)**