

7 December 2007

Mr Donald Trump
President & CEO
Trump Organization
725 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Mr Trump

You may or may not recall that I had the pleasure in October 2005 of joining you for lunch in the Trump Tower with the then First Minister, Mr Jack McConnell. At that time, you shared with us your vision for the development for the Menie Estate. We at Scottish Enterprise (SE) certainly shared your excitement over this project. As the project developed we believed and still do that the economic benefits to Scotland of this project were substantial.

Accordingly, we were profoundly dismayed by the decision made by the Aberdeenshire Council Infrastructure Committee to reject the planning application for this project. I recorded that disappointment in a personal letter to Ms Anne Robertson, Leader of Aberdeenshire Council. As you know, since then the Scottish Government has decided to "call in" the application. Rightly and properly, Scottish Government Minister's will not now comment on the application but I regard their action as encouraging. We concur with the Scottish Government's contention that this is genuinely a project of national importance to Scotland.

I have taken the liberty of discussing the matter with the Chairman of the Scottish Parliament's Enterprise, Energy and Tourism Committee to make him aware of our support for the project and to offer any evidence to him and his committee should they require.


While this Committee has no role in the approval process of your application, it is possible they may consider the repercussions of Aberdeenshire Council's decision on Scotland's tourism industry. I have also now spoken about this matter to the Shadow Enterprise Ministers from the Labour and Liberal Democrat parties in the Scottish Parliament. I have tried to make it clear in these discussions that the impact of Aberdeenshire Council's decision goes far beyond the immediate issue of the Trump development but has much wider implications for Scotland's international image and reputation as a country which welcomes investment.

I have been greatly encouraged by the unequivocal support from the Scottish business community which your project was attracted. I remain hopeful that Scottish Government Ministers will address this matter with speed. We shall continue to provide whatever evidence and support we can, should we be called to do so.

For your information, I have also been greatly encouraged over the past few days by the support shown by the Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Forum whose chairman, Mr Patrick Machray, has been very public and very vocal in support of the Trump development. Patrick is also the Chairman of Scottish Enterprise Grampian. As Scotland's principal economic development agency, we at Scottish Enterprise wish to see your development proceed. We will continue to do what we can to help.

Yours sincerely

Jack Perry

CC: 
Lorna Jack
Patrick Machray