

Response ID ANON-PA1N-7GGG-V

Submitted on 2015-07-13 15:58:49.141800

Evidence

Questions about you:In order for the evidence to be analysed and taken forward by the Inquiry we will need some further information about you and / or your organisation. Please note that all evidence submitted to the Inquiry may be published at any point during the Inquiry or when the Inquiry Report is issued. If you are responding as an organisation your full details will be published. If you are responding as an individual your name will be published, but your address will only be published if the Inquiry considers this to be relevant to the evidence submitted.

Organisation Name (if applicable):

Surname:

Paterson

Forename:

Antonia

Postal Address:

[REDACTED]

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

Phone:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding as an organisation or an individual?

Individual

Does your evidence relate to a particular period of time?

No

If yes, what period?:

Does your evidence relate to a particular event or activity?

Yes

If yes, please explain what the event / activity was.:

I believe there is evidence of corruption between Edinburgh City Council and Chris Stewart Group (building contractors) in relation to monies donated to the trams.

Chris Stewart Group bought 1-3 and 5 Baxter's Place with existing permission for a low-rise building at the rear. The council's own rules state that 'no building of height or mass may be built next to an A-listed building'. However, when my councillors at the time - [REDACTED] - had the final planning meeting regarding the development, a giant tower block was approved to be built just feet from Playfair's original scheme for the entrance to the city.

Despite both councillors campaigning on a 'preserve the New Town' ticket, [REDACTED] phoned me after the planning decision with the bad news. When I expressed my shock at what they'd agreed to, he confessed that Chris Stewart Group had given 'a considerable contribution' to the trams, which is why they passed the building consent.

When I said: "But that's corruption," he replied: "It's not corruption if we tell you about it."

I was flabbergasted. I found out later (though I can't remember from whom) that the contribution from Chris Stewart Group was £300k, though I'm not sure if this is correct.

The building is now in the process of being constructed, with its retaining wall just 4ft from my A-listed building, which is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Due to the destructive procedures used by contractors Interserve, there is significant damage to our building, with large cracks appearing throughout.

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We are particularly interested in:• How you found out about what was happening, and how informed you were throughout the project• What did you think would happen• What actually happened• What were the effects if any, on you (or your organisation) at the time of the project• What if any, were the on-going or longer-term effects on you (or your organisation). Please write your evidence here.

We are particularly interested in:

The effects were that there were years of disturbance caused by the trams. My road (Leith Walk) was blocked off for years with Heras fencing and I couldn't even cross the road. The roads were dug up time and again to move utilities, leading to lost sleep, as they started so early in the morning. As I work from home, the ongoing roadworks disturbed me so much, that I frequently had to leave my house and work from cafes to get away from the noise.

Many shops went out of business because the street was fenced off and the crossing places sited so far apart.

I wasn't informed during the project at all. The only information I would see was very occasional posters on lamp-posts outside the building, but largely one only found out about the project from other locals.

Do you have any documents which you think it would be useful for the Inquiry to see?

No

Details of documents:

Upload documents:

No file was uploaded

Upload documents:

No file was uploaded

Upload documents:

No file was uploaded

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Are you content for the Edinburgh Tram Inquiry team to contact you again in relation to this evidence?*

Yes