

Response ID BHLF-PA1N-7GGY-E

Submitted on 2015-06-09 10:28:27.042533

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):

Aspidistra Ltd

Surname:

Johnson

Forename:

John

Postal Address:

Postcode:

Phone:

Email:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding as an organisation or an individual?

Organisation

Does your evidence relate to a particular period of time?

Not Answered

If yes, what period?:

Does your evidence relate to a particular event or activity?

Not Answered

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

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:

I own a number of properties in the West End of Edinburgh.

In particular Nos [REDACTED] and Nos [REDACTED] t.(some in part some whole).

I have made it my lifes work to develop our part of the West End as a useful and pleasant place to shop and live in. Over 50 years the area has become a vibrant part of the city centre.

Our area of the West End has been largely destroyed as a shopping area, full of lovely small specialist shops, by six years of indecisive tramway construction

followed by a road system that makes it almost impossible to approach with a wheeled vehicle.

During the construction time as a landlord I have seen a huge decline in the areas prosperity.

The cost to my company has been in six figures. Most importantly the small specialist shops that have closed will not come back.

I would argue that visitors to Edinburgh delight in small specialist shops rather than the high street international names....Boots Next Tesco etc.

Do we need a tram system?

Alasdair Darling said rightly that trams are for big high density cities. Edinburgh is a small low density city. Electric buses are now running in Edinburgh. I feel the

decision was made to have trams as a "prestige" project with no proper research undertaken.

I rented out an office to a tram consultant. He told me at the start of the scheme the basic facts were missing. I have also had many dealings with the West End

Association and have followed their involvement with interest. (I re started the association several years ago).

I could help to supply some names and facts if this would help.

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

No

Details of documents:

Upload documents:

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