

Report of the Church Buildings Review Group Statement

The Heritage Alliance

29 January 2016

The Heritage Alliance is the leading coalition of heritage interests in England, bringing together over 100 mainly national organisations which are in turn supported by over 7 million members, Friends, volunteers, trustees and staff. Together they own, manage and care for, the vast majority of England's historic environment.

To: andrea.mulkeen@churchofengland.org.uk

We welcome this Report which reviews the Church of England's responsibilities for a very significant part of our national heritage. Although our aim is to support our heritage across all building types, the particular challenges facing historic places of worship prompted us to set up a dedicated non-government, non-denominational forum in 2008, now the Historic Religious Building Alliance (HRBA).

The Cathedrals and Church Buildings Division of the Church of England is a valued member of The Heritage Alliance and for this reason, as HRBA has said in its own response to this consultation, it is not appropriate for us to comment in detail. We have however welcomed the Report in our e-bulletin Heritage Update which is extensively read in the UK and beyond, and encouraged others to respond.

We are aware that there has been a call for a Royal Commission or its equivalent to look further into the options not only for Anglican churches but also for other denominations and faiths. It may be that the Church of England may wish to consider whether this might bring the issues to wider public attention.

Kate Pugh OBE

Chief Executive

The Heritage Alliance

10 Storey's Gate

London SW1P 3AY

T: 020 7233 0800

E: Kate.pugh@theheritagealliance.org.uk