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Mrs S Hanrahan  
Local Compliance Appeals and Reviews Unit  
Archer House  
John Street  
Stockport  
Cheshire SK1 3EF

28 June 2010

Dear Mrs Hanrahan

**VAT No 945 8810 86: Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd**

I am writing to you on behalf of the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers, in support of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT).

GGAT is one of four Welsh trusts set up in 1970s to provide archaeological, educational and heritage services to their local communities. It maintains the Historic Environment Record for the area, containing information on over 25,000 archaeological and historic sites and monuments, which is used for advice, education and research. It also carries out field research, recording and publication in advance of development work, in pursuance of its charitable and educational objectives.

I understand that you are currently in discussion with the trust over a potential VAT legacy debt which, if realised, would have potentially disastrous consequences for both the work of the trust and the wider heritage of South Wales.

As an educational charity the trust has no significant assets or reserves, and could thus be forced into administration and likely liquidation. This would curtail or severely disrupt the provision of essential historic environment advice in the region, and would also have a very damaging impact on local knowledge and understanding of the historic environment of South Wales.

The knowledge, expertise and information painstakingly built up by GGAT over some 35 years would be all too easily lost, and would prove very difficult indeed to replace. I therefore urge you to explore every possible avenue in seeking a compromise that will enable the trust to meet its legal obligations while continuing its valuable work with the communities of South Wales.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Tindall MA FSA MIFA, Chief Executive