



Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers
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Ms Sharon Granville, Executive Director
Museum of Liverpool
Pier Head
Liverpool Waterfront
Liverpool L3 1DG

27 August 2013

Dear Ms Granville

Merseyside Historic Environment Record

I am writing to you on behalf of the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME), which represents over 50 archaeological businesses providing advice and specialist services to commercial clients and developers throughout the UK.

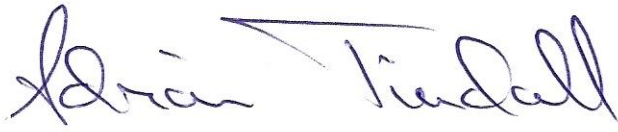
Our members have been actively engaged in development-led archaeological research, excavation, recording and publication in Merseyside for many years. The existence of a comprehensive, up-to-date and accessible Merseyside Historic Environment Record (MHER) has been absolutely fundamental to the successful delivery of this work.

Your proposal to introduce a fee of £500 per day, with a minimum of £250, for access to the MHER raises a number of important questions:

1. Do you charge for public access to your other collections? If not, what distinguishes the MHER from these other collections?
2. In common with most HERs around the UK, the MHER was set up using public funds, from English Heritage, local authorities and other sources. On what legal basis do you claim ownership of, and copyright in, the material it contains?
3. You correctly state that “the information in HERs is not static, as the results of new discoveries and investigations are added, thus increasing knowledge of an area and ability to share the information”. What investment in maintaining and updating the MHER has therefore been made since the closure of the Merseyside Archaeological Service in March 2011?
4. Given the scale of the proposed increases, what additional assurances are you proposing to offer our members in relation to service and data quality?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adrian Tindall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish that extends to the right and then curves back under the name.

Adrian Tindall MA FSA MI(A)
Chief Executive, Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers