

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom

27 Rutland Gate, London SW7 1PD

Tel: 020-7584-2566 Fax: 020-7584 9402

E-mail: nsa@bahai.org.uk

When replying please
refer to: GC-27083
19 February 2013

To all believers in the United Kingdom

Dearly loved Friends,

The National Spiritual Assembly wishes to update you on the status of Edinburgh Bahá'í Centre.

In a letter to the National Assembly dated 25 August 2003, the Universal House of Justice underscored the importance of establishing a Bahá'í Centre in Edinburgh:

“[For] ... Edinburgh, capital of Scotland and home of the Scottish Parliament, it is obviously highly desirable that the Local Spiritual Assembly have a Centre which is a credit to the Faith and meets the most urgent of its needs, particularly with respect to providing an address and facilities for the reception of distinguished visitors.”

The Supreme Body concluded with this assurance:

“You may be confident of the prayers of the House of Justice in the Holy Shrines that Bahá'u'lláh may guide and support your efforts to advance the interests of the Cause in a city blessed by an unforgettable visit by the Master.”

With the approval of the House of Justice, a beautiful early twentieth-century townhouse in the heart of Edinburgh, with four floors and many original features, was purchased.

Now, less than a decade later, the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom may stand proud of their achievements. Indeed, the elegant rooms of various sizes—as depicted in the enclosed brochure—show clearly how this community has fulfilled its mission in creating a truly ambassadorial venue. It not only serves as a dignified site for the reception of prominent visitors, but also hosts a range of regional, cluster and local gatherings, including meetings of the Spiritual Assembly of Edinburgh and the Bahá'í Council for Scotland. Last March, a Member of the Scottish Parliament requested a meeting with Bahá'ís at the Centre, and it has been pivotal for our external affairs work in Scotland.

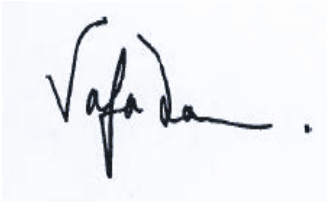
Ever-mindful of the privileges and successes the Edinburgh Centre has already conferred, the National Assembly remains deeply indebted to the House of Justice for prompting our community to undertake this ambitious enterprise, as well as for its prayers, loving encouragement and guidance which have accompanied us every step of the way. The National Assembly has also been overwhelmed by the astonishing dedication, generosity and sacrifice of the believers who have arisen with such devotion and resolve to ensure that the wish of the House of Justice is realised.

The deficit associated with the purchase and refurbishment of the Edinburgh Centre currently stands at £250,000. In the wake of the Centenary of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's visit to Edinburgh, what better time is there to contribute to the completion of this significant financial undertaking? The participation of

the friends across the United Kingdom in meeting this need is most deeply appreciated by the National Assembly, as are all your devoted services in the name of our beloved Faith.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

National Spiritual Assembly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vafa Ram", with a small dot at the end of the signature.

Vafa Ram,
Treasurer