



To: Richard Hughes,
Director of Information and Knowledge Exchange
British Geological Survey

17.1.2011

Dear Richard,

I m writing on behalf of the Advisory Group established to examine issues relating to the proposed move of core collections from Gilmerton to Keyworth.

As you know, this has been, and remains, a sensitive issue for many users of these collections, and others. While strategic matters were not directly part of our remit, we feel it is not inappropriate to flag concerns about the way in which the decision to move was reached, and in particular, about the timing and nature of information-gathering which informed the decision. However, we accept that moving the collections using the proposed resources and methodology is viable, practical, and appropriately manages potential risks to the material.

BGS Information and Collections staff have approached this large and complex task with exemplary professionalism, and with input from ourselves, and the standing Collections Advisory Group and others, have developed a robust methodology to manage and monitor the move process which should minimize service disruption, minimize risk to material (including the most friable cores), and enhance the data available to users. As long as the procedural, monitoring and quality-assurance aspects of the methodology are followed and adequately resourced during the move, we are happy that any risks to the collections will be at acceptable levels. We would like to be kept informed of the progress of the move, and especially the results of all quality-assurance data obtained so that we can monitor any problems which do occur, and ensure that they are properly addressed.

A variety of issues have been raised during the recent period of consultation about the methodology document, and BGS have produced a separate "Feedback Review" document addressing these. We are happy that the BGS responses in this document are realistic and appropriate.

Finally, we also note, and regard as essential, that BGS has committed to supporting the major teaching users of core in Scotland. This is welcome, and should be maintained as a long-term priority.

Yours sincerely

Dr JW Faithfull
Chair, Gilmerton Core Transfer Advisory Group

Cc Adam Moss, Andy Sims, Peter Haile, Mike Howe, Jerry Giles, Graham Tulloch