NBHS
An tSeirbhís Oidhreachta
Tógtha Náisiúnta
National Built
Heritage Service

Custom House
Dublin 1 D01 W6X0
IRELAND

9 September 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a Senior Architect with the National Built Heritage Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in Ireland. I am writing to express my support for the *Energy Renovation of Historic Buildings in Ireland: Policy, Practice and Impact* training course, which took place in Dublin Castle over three days in January / February 2025. As both an attendee and a speaker, I can personally attest to the exceptional quality and critical importance of this initiative.

The three-day course was comprehensive, well-structured, and genuinely transformative for public sector professionals. The sessions on Day 1, focused on Policy, were invaluable in providing a clear understanding of new EU directives and how they will directly impact regulations for our historic built environment. Day 2 focused on the implications of these policies in architectural and engineering practice. Live demonstrations and detailed case studies gave an insight to the technical expertise we urgently need to approach energy renovations with confidence. Finally, the focus of Day 3 was crucial in highlighting the wider benefits of this work, from reducing greenhouse-gas emissions to improving the health, financial stability and wellbeing of building occupants. It also showcased innovative tools to inform the decision making process, like the Dublin City Council Carbon Digital Twin and the WUFI hygrothermal risk assessment software, which now has a new dataset of traditional Irish buildings materials.

This training is an exemplary candidate for the Europa Nostra Award in the category of ‘Education, Training & Skills’. The course directly aligns with the award's criteria by developing professional competencies for individuals already working in the heritage sector. Its structured learning programme equipped over 400 in-person and online attendees with specific methodologies, technical approaches, and theoretical frameworks necessary for sustainable heritage building conservation and management. The training programme serves as a model for improving the professional capabilities of heritage practitioners to enable them to meet our national and international climate commitments.

The course exceeded expectations and succeeded in bridging a significant knowledge gap in the sector. It not only provided the necessary high-level policy context but also delivered practical, hands-on insights that are immediately applicable. The networking opportunities with over 150 in-

person attendees and distinguished experts created a collaborative community of practice that will continue to drive progress in this area long after the course concludes.

I have no doubt that this training will be instrumental in empowering Ireland to meet its climate goals while safeguarding its rich architectural heritage. It supports the Irish government's policies in the areas of both heritage conservation and climate-change mitigation and will assist practitioners in upgrading the energy performance of the historic building stock whilst avoiding maladaptation.

The course and its associated publications are a testament to what can be achieved through a forward-thinking, collaborative and interdisciplinary approach and the Office of Public Works is to be commended for its undertaking.

Yours sincerely,



Jacqui Donnelly

Senior Architect

National Built Heritage Service

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage