



ÉIRE

Irish Republican Brotherhood

Kathy Richmond
Head of Collections & Applied Conservation
Cultural Assets Directorate
Longmore House
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Edinburgh EH9 1SH

By Certified Post & Via Email Kathy.richmond@hes.scot

19th April 2023

Re: Your letter dated 18th October 2022

Subject: Stone of Destiny & Coronation of Charles III

Dear Kathy Richmond,

Thank you for your letter of October 18th 2022 in which you confirm the position that the Stone of Destiny/Stone of Scone held as part of the Historical Environment Scotland collection within Edinburgh Castle is not in fact the Lia Fáil/Stone of Destiny/Coronation Stone/Jacob's Pillow that the Irish Republican Brotherhood are seeking to have returned to original setting position at the Hill of Tara in Éire.

In circumstances where your Stone of Destiny/Stone of Scone holds no connection to the Sovereign Territory of Éire, I can confirm that the Irish Republican Brotherhood hold no position in relation to your Stone of Destiny/Stone of Scone being deployed in the upcoming coronation of Charles III as King in England.

Yours Faithfully,

John D Flanagan
Chairman
IRB Supreme Council
The Mermaid House Liscannor
Éire
V95 DKF7

c.c - Charles III King in England Buckingham Palace London SW1A 1AA, - by Certified Post



HISTORIC
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ALBA

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kathy.richmond@hes.scot

18 October 2022

Dear Mr Flanagan

Re: Lia-Fail / The Stone of Destiny / The Stone of Scone / The Coronation Stone / Jacob's Pillow

The Stone of Destiny, also referred to as the Stone of Scone, is currently held as part of the Historic Environment Scotland collection within Edinburgh Castle, on behalf of The Commissioners of the Regalia (the formal holders of delegated authority for the Stone of Destiny – roles conferred by Royal Warrant when the Stone returned to Scotland in 1996), who are also advised by Historic Environment Scotland.

The Stone of Destiny is part of a tradition of stones, monuments, and chairs, which were used across Europe in inauguration ceremonies for kings and nobles during the medieval period. The earliest contemporary record of the Stone of Destiny dates to 1297 when it is listed in an inventory of jewels belonging to the former king of Scotland, then in the possession of the English in Edinburgh Castle.

Since it has been part of the Historic Environment Scotland (and previously Historic Scotland) collection, it has been the subject of academic research and scientific investigations from leading experts. Stone analysis showed that the Stone of Destiny is from the Lower Old Red sandstone formations exposed in the Perth and Dundee areas with lithological matching suggesting that it may have originated from the Scone Formation, and that it is particularly similar to sandstone from Quarry Mill near Scone.

Research by scholars including Dr Davit Broun, Dr Thomas Clancy and Dr Elizabeth FitzPatrick (published in the monograph 'The Stone of Destiny, artefact and icon') has demonstrated that, coupled with the petrological analysis, the Stone of Destiny would not have been a *leac* or the Lia Fáil and was not brought to Scotland from Ireland. As such, we are able to demonstrate that the Stone of Destiny kept in Edinburgh Castle is not the Lia Fáil originally from Tara, which you seek.

Your sincerely

K. Richmond

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