

Developer is not a charity

I WRITE to correct the continuing spin by the spokesperson for the Alfred Stewart Property Foundation Ltd (ASPEL) in the *Press* (12th August) that the Office of the Charity Regulator in Scotland (OSCR) has granted "approval in principle for charitable status" for the 2009 Trust.

OSCR are quite clear that there is no such thing as a formal "approval in principle for charitable status". Furthermore, the proposed 2009 Alfred Stewart Trust referred to by the ASPFL spokesperson was found to be invalid and OSCR had only the 2008 Alfred Stewart Trust to consider, which it did on 27th May, finding it did "not pass the charity test". A subsequent ASPFL request for a review by OSCR resulted in another refusal to grant charitable status.

Can the good people of Inverkeithing now be allowed to make a judgement on the Spencerfield issues on the basis that these involve a dormant limited company bearing the Norrie McCathie name having charitable status and the Alfred Stewart Property Foundation Limited, a company with no charitable link to the Alfred Stewart Trust, as charitable status has twice been refused to this entity?

As I said in a letter published in the *Press* recently, the Alfred Stewart Property Foundation Limited are no more of a charity than Wimpey, Miller, etc are. They are property developers.

Tom Minogue,
94 Victoria Terrace, Dunfermline

HAVING read your recent article 'Confusion over trust status of foundation', (*Press*, 12th August), I feel that some clarification is required.

A charity in Scotland is a body entered in the Scottish Charity Register. The Register is updated daily and can be checked at www.oscr.org.uk.

On the basis of the application made to us, we refused to grant charitable status to The Alfred Stewart Trust and consequently did not enter it in the Register.

There is, therefore, no confusion. The Alfred Stewart Trust is not a charity.

Martin Tyson,
Head of charity services, The Office of the Scottish
Charity Regulator