



TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE GROUP

Mr Martin Temple CBE,  
Chair,  
Design Council,  
34 Bow Street,  
London,  
WC2E 7DL

3<sup>rd</sup> August 2011

Dear Mr Temple,

**Re: Mr Paul Finch's Article and Comments**

Thank you for your letter of 28<sup>th</sup> July in response to our letter the Secretary of State for Culture regarding the above mentioned article.

I note your statement regarding "big tent approach to design" and CABE working with a wide range of partners across the sector and the note of your Design Review Panel's guidelines. This makes it all the more crucial that whoever chairs or steers the Panel's approaches their role from an impartial standpoint that you laudably aspire to in your letter. Unfortunately TAG's experience in the matter is a distinct lack of correlation between aspiration of policy and the stylistic prejudices in the makeup of the Panels that implement it.

We maintain that Mr Finch's views on Architecture cannot be deemed to be private whilst he is the Deputy Chair and has access to a public forum such as the Architects Journal, particularly when major and nationally significant projects, such as the Olympics, with large architectural commissions are concerned.

Whilst we would welcome the opportunity of a meeting with your Chief Executive, TAG would like to see proposals for positive action to address the disjoint between the public policy and what it sees as personal agendas of the Design Review Panel.

Yours sincerely,

**Alireza Sagharchi RIBA, FRSA**  
Chairman, Traditional Architecture Group  
A Linked Society of the RIBA

CC Paul Finch OBE, Deputy Chair Design Council CABE  
Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt, MP - Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport  
Rt Hon Eric Pickles, MP - Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

c/o 5 Stanhope Gate, London W1K 1AH  
Tel:+4420 7306 2176 [asagharchi@stanhopegate.co.uk](mailto:asagharchi@stanhopegate.co.uk)

