

The following letter is handwritten

Edinburgh 6 June 1891

Dear Sirs

Barry Links

I have received your letter of yesterday. I may state to you that the War Office lately acquired from the Duke of Buccleuch the Island of Inchkeith, on which as you are no doubt aware a Light housed stands.

The nature of the acquisition is that the whole Island now belongs to the War Department. The Northern Lights Commissioners hold a feu of the site on which the Lighthouse is built, as well as of some adjoining ground, for which they pay an annual feuduty. The Commissioners of Northern Lights also rented a portion of the Island from the Duke of Buccleuch. The Effect of the purchase by my Constituents is that they are now the Superior of the portion of the Island held in feu by the Commissioners and the landlord of the portion of the Island held in tack, and will therefore in future draw the feuduty and rent payable by the Northern Lights Commissioners. It was not intended that the rights of the Northern Lights Commissioners to their own property on the Island should be disturbed by the transference of the property as regards the maintenance of the Lighthouse; And I presume & indeed I have no doubt, that the same rule will take effect as regards the Lighthouse and relative premises to which you refer. The effect of the acquisition of the Barry Links by the War Department will be, I understand to place them in the position relative to the Lighthouse hat the Earl of Dalhousie at present holds.

As to the notice served on your Constituents, I presume that if in consequence of the acquisition by the War Department of the Barry Links they suffer any injury, they will be entitled to compensation from the War Department. But if the explanation I have given above is correct then I do not apprehend that there will be any disturbance of their interests. You will judge of that and write to me accordingly either making a claim or saying that you have no claim to make on the footing that matters are to remain as regards the Dundee Harbour Trustees on the position in which they have been.

The Notices have been carefully framed by the advice of Counsel and I apprehend that the whole rights of the Earl of Dalhousie & is feuars & tenants in the Barry Links where compensation is claimed and become the subject of arbitration under the acts of Parliament referred to. The Barracks Act of 1890 substantially adopts the terms of the Lands Clauses Act of 1845.

I would like to know by what tenure the Dundee Harbour Trustees hold the ground on which their Lighthouse is erected. Do they hold it by a Lease or by feu right, and in either case please say the rent or feuduty exigible.

Yours Truly
Donald Beith

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Dundee.