

Dear Sheila

We thank you for your response to our Secretary's email and we note with some concern that Live Borders appears to continue to be without a permanent CEO for the foreseeable future. Without, a permanent CEO going forward it is almost impossible to plan effectively and to have true agreement on policy decisions. Strategic decisions taken before a new CEO is appointed, will very likely make it more difficult to attract a person to the post. Relating to this, please could you explain what is meant by a "single membership trust"

In relation to the central issue that is concerning some people in Peebles, the opening hours of the Library and Swimming Pool, it may be helpful to refer you to an extract from last month's Chairman's report which is appended to this email. Factually, our facilities opening hours do not appear to be as user friendly as those used in the comparisons. In fact, reviewing additional facilities such as Dunbar and Peterhead, these also have more user-friendly hours.

Most local authorities provide mobile library services, and we do not disagree that these are a most welcome resource for those communities served. However, we don't understand where the 160 hours in your response comes from as the library in the Chambers Institution is open for less than 40 hours per week.

1.0 Live Borders

Recent concern was expressed regarding the opening times of the library and of the Peebles swimming pool. The swimming pool times, and some comparisons are below. Everywhere reviewed has a better timetable. It is also understood that some facilities at the pool are broken and not thought to be scheduled for repair. Live Borders are in danger of creating a self-fulfilling prophesy. They reduce the quality and make it more difficult to access at times suitable to the public and the public stop going. Finally, someone says there is no demand, and it is not commercially viable. This must not be allowed to happen, and a review is needed.

Sunday	Closes 12:30
Monday	Closes 21:00
Tuesday	Closes 20:30
Wednesday	Closes 18:30
Thursday	Closes 17:30
Friday	Closes 19:00
Saturday	Closes 12:30

Berwick upon Tweed	Closes 22:00
Wooler	Closes 22:00
Inverurie	Mon to Thurs 06:15 to 21:30, Fri to 20:30, Sun 09:00 to 15:00, Sat 09:00 to 15:00
Fort William	Closes 21:00, Friday 20:30, Sat/Sun 15:00
Lanark	Closes 21:30, Friday 20:00, Sat/sun 16:00

It is a similar picture with Peebles library. However, in this case the trustees of the Chambers Institution Trust, i.e. the elected councillors have a strong responsibility for ensuring that William Chambers' legacy is protected.

Opening times in Peebles are mostly 10:00 to 15:00 except Thursday until 17:00 and closed Sunday. Closing at 15:00 precludes visits from primary school children after school. Literacy is linked to reading and the other libraries reviewed make access easier.

Fort William		Berwick Upon Tweed	Inverurie
Monday	10:00 to 20:00	09:00 to 17:00 (5 days)	Closed
Tuesday	10:00 to 18:00		09:00 to 17:30
Wednesday	10:00 to 13:00		09:00 to 17:30
Thursday	10:00 to 20:00		10:00 to 19:00
Friday	10:00 to 18:00	10:00 to 17:00	Closed
Saturday	10:00 to 13:00		10:00 to 14:00