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## Plan S Consultation January 2019

*Response from Landscape Research Group prepared by David Saunders, Chief Executive*

The Landscape Research Group (LRG) is a small UK charity established in 1983 in order to “*advance education and research, encourage interest and exchange information for the public benefit in the field of landscape and any related fields*” (The Objects)

One of the main outputs delivering the charitable function of LRG is the journal *Landscape Research*. First launched in 1976 this has, over time, become a well-respected international, peer-reviewed academic journal.

In 1996 *Landscape Research* became a title within Routledge / Taylor and Francis Group, who publish the journal worldwide to an expanding readership. Landscape Research Group continues to own the journal, and also the copyright.

Under this arrangement LRG are paid a royalty fee which provides the charity with a significant proportion of its income. LRG use the surpluses provided through the publication of *Landscape Research* to support multi-disciplinary research, events and other publications as well as funding areas of study that may not always be available through mainstream grant-funding bodies.

Taylor and Francis Group already offer a hybrid model of both Gold and Green Open Access publishing. A recent analysis of the academic contributions to *Landscape Research* indicates that 15% of the articles would meet the Plan S criteria. This is somewhat higher than the average for titles in similar publishing sectors, but this approach would not conform with the full open-access policy being driven by cOAlition S.

LRG have reviewed the proposals made by cOAlition S to move swiftly to Open Access Publishing. We feel that the uncompromising and “one-size-fits-all” approach cannot properly address the complexities and varieties of the relationships between authors, publishers and NGOs, such as LRG.

LRG are concerned, therefore, that the pace of change recommended in the proposal is too rapid, and the hasty implementation of this initiative would risk significant unforeseen consequences to LRG if the business model from which income supporting the charity is disrupted, without any clarity as to acceptable alternative commercial approaches.

LRG are concerned that the proposals outlined by cOAlition S do not properly address the business case, and we are, therefore, unable to see how our re-investment of funding to support innovative research in the field of landscape could be maintained under a full open-access model.

We would appreciate being kept informed of the progress of the consultation process, and to receive updates if any further consultation is taking place.

David Saunders  
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Landscape Research Group Ltd.