



BUILDING COSMETIC SERVICES LTD

4 PORTLAND ARCADE, KING STREET
SOUTHWELL, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NG25 0EH

Telephone 01636 815364

Facsimile 01636 813608

Site Address:

Dear Sirs,

Re: **Durability of Brick/Mortar Remedial Works**

The tinters used by ourselves have proved successful over a period of some thirty years and, although initially developed for use on clay bricks, have subsequently been applied with equal success to a variety of materials including all types of fired clay, concrete bricks/blocks, calcium silicate bricks, mortars and natural stone.

We find that fired clay provides the most durable substrate for our tinters as vitrified clay is not subject to etching from the acidity of the rain as are most of the cementitious products mentioned previously. Nevertheless as the function of the tinting is purely cosmetic, we find that the same factors (*i.e. the weather*) which causes a gradual loss of surface material and therefore tinter from the surface of cementitious compounds, also causes the deposition of soot, grime etc. which mask any loss of colour and generally maintain a harmonious aesthetic effect throughout the life of the building material.

When developing the tinters, it was decided that the most successful way to cosmetically colour materials used in construction would be to introduce the colouring pigments into the porous structure of the substrate, rather than coat the surface with a colouring medium.

Consequently the tinters are quite thin and soak into the surface onto which they have been applied. The depth of penetration is dependent upon the porosity of the material being tinted.

Having been absorbed into the material the tinter, to some extent, becomes integral with the substrate and consequently there is usually very little loss of texture. Additionally as the tinters are absorbed into the substrate matrix, we are confident that they will remain effective so long as the substrate maintains its integrity.

Regarding an unconditional guarantee, we would suggest that all the colouring agents used in the tinters are guaranteed to British Standard and are fast to light and most strong chemicals. Indeed most of them are the same metallic oxide used by prehistoric man in his paintings many thousands of years ago. As evidence of the paintings is still visible and has not faded over such a lengthy period of time, it is likely that our pigments will remain effective for at least the life-span of the building in question.

Nevertheless we would not wish materials tinted by ourselves to remain the same over a long period of time. Indeed it is a necessary characteristic of the tinters that they allow the substrate onto which they have been applied to weather at a similar rate to the surrounding un-tinted materials, thus maintaining a harmonious appearance.

Cont...

(2)

Additionally as any tinted areas will behave in a natural manner, any subsequent contaminations of the substrate (*acid washing, pollution, graffiti, soot, grime, algae etc.*) will affect the tinted areas in the same way as untreated brickwork. Consequently it is impossible to guarantee that any tinted areas will remain satisfactory 'ad infinitum'.

Finally the quality of the building material onto which the tinter is applied is also a factor which will affect the performance of the tinter. Any failure of the substrate material is likely to affect the durability and appearance of the tinted surface.

Nevertheless we have every confidence that following some thirty years successful use on materials built to normal standards and specifications the tinters, when correctly applied by our personnel, will provide a durable solution.

Indeed we would offer you this assurance that if we are not confident of achieving a satisfactory result, we would never attempt to continue with any tinting operation.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc Slack', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marc Slack
Managing Director