



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

DEPUTY MINISTRY OF CULTURE



DEPARTMENT  
OF ANTIQUITIES  
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8 July, 2024

Mr Omar Alshikh

Email: [amrlood@gmail.com](mailto:amrlood@gmail.com)

Dear Mr Alshikh,

SUBJECT: SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ON CONSERVATION OF MOSQUES

I refer to your email dated 13 June 2024, concerning the above subject and I would like to inform you of the following.

In order to clarify matters, please be informed that the Department of Antiquities does not have a designated Department of restoration of archaeological mosques as stated in your letter. Mosques are considered an integral part of Ancient Monuments and are under the supervision of the Ancient Monuments Sector and ultimately the Director.

Secondly, I feel that the questions posed in your letter are heavily extensive and repetitive, as they have been largely answered in the two previous letters already send to you. In the said letters, answers are given on the number of mosques listed as Ancient Monuments, on the monitoring of monuments and their conservation, on budgetary allocation, as well as specific recent projects undertaken by the Department of Antiquities or in partnership with other actors. Indicatively I would like to provide here further budgetary information of the recent projects already communicated to you: a) the restoration of the Peristerona mosque in Lefkosia District, which is ongoing, has thus far cost approximately €1.000.000 funded exclusively by the Republic of Cyprus, b) the Zouhourri Mosque in Larnaca implemented by the Department of Antiquities and co-funded by the European Union through UNDP cost €220.000 and c) the ongoing restoration project of Kebir Mosque in Lemesos funded by the Sultanate of Oman with the contribution of the Republic of Cyprus has thus far cost more than €700.000.

As far as your comment on Islamic monuments being the responsibility of the Islamic endowments in Cyprus, as you may already be aware of, since the Turkish invasion of 1974 the T/C properties in the government-controlled areas of the Republic of Cyprus, including mosques, fall under the responsibility of the Minister of Interior (T/C Properties Management Service and the District Officers) until the political issue is settled. For the 19 listed Monuments this responsibility is shared between the Ministry of Interior and the Department of Antiquities.

In closing, I would like to once again repeat that monuments of Islamic heritage are considered an integral part of Cypriot archaeological heritage and are treated no differently than all other monuments be it secular or sacred, be it Muslim or Christian. The Department of Antiquities having the responsibility of over 1500 listed monuments, monitors all monuments and decides upon the necessary interventions taking into account a variety of factors, thus resulting in a prioritisation of monuments in need of conservation and ultimately setting up a schedule for the implementation of these works.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Giorgos Georgiou  
Director  
Department of Antiquities