

Our Ref: PCS101857/Scr/PH  
SG Ref: SEA00419

Tim Stott  
Principal Planner  
The Highland Council  
Planning and Development Service  
Glenurquhart Road  
Inverness IV3 5NX

29 July 2009

By email: [sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

Dear Mr Stott,

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005  
Fort William Wider Waterfront Study Screening Report**

I refer to your screening consultation submitted on 3 July 2009 via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway in respect of the above programme

In accordance with Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act, 2005, SEPA has considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment.

Having reviewed the Screening Report, SEPA considers that in respect of its main areas of interest (air, water, soil, human health and climatic factors) the plan is not likely to have significant strategic environmental effects. Please note we do however continue to have local concerns about this development and would welcome ongoing discussion in this respect.

Although SEPA is of the view that significant environmental effects are unlikely, it is for The Highland Council as Responsible Authority to make a formal determination taking into account the consultation responses received.

If it is formally determined that SEA *is* required, you will be aware that the next stage requires the Responsible Authority to consult the Consultation Authorities on the proposed scope and level of detail to be included within the Environmental Report. The Consultation Authorities typically expect to receive a concise Scoping Report at this stage. Further information about this stage and what should be included in a Scoping Report can be found in Chapter 5 of the Scottish SEA Tool Kit available from [www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/45](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/45).

Should you wish to discuss this screening consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01349860447 or via SEPA's SEA Gateway at [sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk](mailto:sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,



Pat Haynes  
Senior Planning Officer

**Chairman**  
David Sigsworth

**Chief Executive**  
Dr Campbell Gemmell

**SEPA Corporate Office**

Erskine Court, Castle Business Park, Stirling FK9 4TR  
tel 01786 457700 fax 01786 446885  
[www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)

