

Our ref: PCS/131138
SG ref: 00901Scr

If telephoning ask for:
Susan Haslam

17 January 2014

Simon Hindson
The Highland Council
Glenurquhart Road
Inverness
IV3 5NX

By email only to: sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Mr Hindson

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 Muirtown and South Kessock Development Brief - Screening Report

Thank you for your Screening Report consultation which SEPA received via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 16 January 2014.

In accordance with Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 we have 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, we consider that in respect of our main areas of interest the Brief is unlikely to have additional significant environmental effects above those already considered as part of the assessments undertaken for the Highland Wide Local Development Plan and Inner Moray Firth Proposed Plan. Although we are of the view that significant environmental effects are not likely, it is for The Highland Council as Responsible Authority to make a formal determination taking into account the consultation responses received.

Please note that although we do not consider that the Brief will have significant strategic effects on the environment we do consider that it may have some effects and would be especially interested in ensuring that new development is suitably located to ensure that it is not at risk of flooding or adds to flood risk problems nearby. We would therefore welcome consultation on the draft proposals which should be directed to our local Planning Service team at planning.dingwall@sepa.org.uk.

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. This can be undertaken through preparation of a concise Scoping Report. We would encourage you to use the scoping process to focus the assessment on those SEA issues upon which there are likely to be significant environmental effects, to outline the baseline information you consider as most relevant and explain your proposed methodology of assessment. We are committed to providing early and focused advice and supporting continuous engagement and would therefore welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss these issues prior to the formal consultation. Further information can be found in the Scottish Government SEA Guidance available at: www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/08/3355



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Should you wish to discuss this letter please do not hesitate to contact me on 01349 860359 or via SEPA's SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Susan Haslam
Senior Planning Officer (SEA)
Planning Service

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