

Our ref: PCS/115241  
Your ref: SEA 00638

Simon Hindson  
The Highland Council  
Glenurquhart Road  
Inverness  
IV3 5NX

If telephoning ask for:  
Susan Haslam

5 August 2011

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

Dear Mr Hindson

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005  
Inverness city centre development brief  
Screening report**

Thank you for your screening report consultation submitted under the above Act in respect of the above development brief. This was received by SEPA via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 1 August 2011

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 (air, water, soil, human health and climatic factors) the brief is not likely to have significant strategic environmental effects. 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. 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](mailto: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. 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). We would encourage you to use the Scoping Report to focus the assessment on those SEA topics upon which there are likely to be significant environmental effects.



Chairman  
David Sigsworth  
  
Chief Executive  
Dr Campbell Gemmell

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Should you wish to discuss this consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01349 860359 or via SEPA's SEA Gateway at [sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk](mailto:sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Susan Haslam  
Senior Planning Officer (SEA)  
Planning Service

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