

Our ref: PCS/149721  
SG ref: SEA01230/Scr

If telephoning ask for:  
Susan Haslam

28 October 2016

Peter Wheelan  
The Highland Council  
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IV3 5NX

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

Dear Mr Wheelan

## **Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 Inverness City Centre Development Brief - Screening Report**

Thank you for your Screening Report consultation which SEPA received via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 27 October 2016.

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, material assets (of which we have a specific interest in waste) and climatic factors) the Brief is unlikely to have either significant positive or negative environmental effects. This is partly on the understanding that the Air Quality Action Plan for the area will address local air quality issues. 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 me at our local Planning Service team at [planning.dingwall@sepa.org.uk](mailto:planning.dingwall@sepa.org.uk).

In addition we take this opportunity to highlight that there does not seem to be any record of Highland Council having submitted suitable SEA documentation to the SEA gateway in relation to the Air Quality Action Plan referred to above; this should be discussed with appropriate council colleagues in environmental health, and thereafter rectified.

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](mailto:sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Susan Haslam  
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Planning Service

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