

Our Ref: PCS110047/scr/SH
SG Ref: SEA00538

Gillian Webster
Planning & Development Service
Highland Council
Glenurquhart Road
Inverness
IV3 5NX

6 October 2010

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

Dear Ms Webster

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
Nairn Town Centre Development Brief - Screening Report**

Thank you for consulting SEPA on the above Development Brief submitted on 27 September 2010 via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway.

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 agree that in respect of our main areas of interest (air, water, soil, human health and climatic factors) the Development 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 Development Brief will have significant strategic effects on the environment we do consider that it may have some effects. We would therefore welcome consultations on the draft proposals. These should be directed to SEPA's local Planning Service 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. 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. 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.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Haslam
Senior Planning Officer (SEA)
Planning Service

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

