



Ms Morag Smith
Development Plan Assistant
Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals
4 The Courtyard, Callendar Business Park,
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Your ref: LDP-270-3

13 November 2011

Dear Ms Smith

Highland Wide Local Development Plan – Issue 68 – Renewable Energy Developments
Council’s response to DPEA letter dated 5 September 2011

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on the Highland Council’s response. Please see my comments below.

The introduction of the word ‘overall’ into this paragraph is very worrying indeed. It is language which is perilously close to that used by developers to justify inappropriate proposals. At a recent Public Local Inquiry words such as ‘in the round’ and ‘overall’ were frequently used by the applicants to deflect attention from, and to diminish the impact of, the aspects of the development which were considered to be significantly detrimental and contrary to the development plan

If a major aspect such as visual impact or effect on landscape character is considered to be significantly detrimental then this should be enough to refuse consent. As soon as you put words such as ‘overall’ into a policy it allows room for manoeuvre. This applies equally to both sides rendering the policy ineffectual. The consequences of this will increase the numbers of appeal attempts causing much expense and uncertainty for communities and dilute the planning safeguards that the people are entitled to expect from their planning authority.

Yours sincerely

Denise M Brown (Mrs)