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Brian MacKenzie
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Our ref: LDP-270-3/24

5 September 2011

Dear Mr McKenzie

**THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT PLANNING)
(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008
HIGHLAND COUNCIL – HIGHLAND WIDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
NOTICE: REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

I am writing regarding Highland Wide Local Development Plan which has been submitted to DPEA for examination by Scottish Ministers. Under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Planning)(Scotland) Regulations 2008 the appointed reporters can request, by way of notice, further information in connection with the examination. This letter is a notice under Regulation 22.

The reporters have identified that further information, as listed below, should be provided by the Highland Council. It would be helpful if you could send this information to me, to pass on to the reporter, by 19 September 2011.

Issue 69 “Community” Renewable Energy Developments

In relation to the Mountaineering Council of Scotland’s representation, the reporter has the following questions:

1. The proposed relaxation relates only to amenity. Looking at the bullet points in policy 68, would amenity cover visual amenity, residential amenity, and the amenity of public access routes? Would it also cover landscape character, noise, shadow flicker, and shadow throw? Are any other types of amenity to be covered?

2. What constitutes a community? What constitutes a separate community? For example, on a small island, would the community be the whole island or would each settlement constitute a community? How widely would a community's area be drawn?
3. How does the council respond to the Assynt case cited by MCofS?
4. Is the MCofS correct in asserting that renewable developments even at a small scale rarely impact only on one defined community?

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter and confirm that it and, in due course, the council's responses, have been posted on the council's website. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything you would like to clarify.

Yours sincerely

Morag I Smith

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Development Plan Assistant