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Brian MacKenzie
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Your ref:
Our ref: LDP-270-3

24 August 2011

Dear Mr McKenzie

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 6 September 2011.

Issue 37 Wider Countryside

1. In its response to representations, the council makes a distinction between large scale onshore renewable energy proposals and smaller scale proposals, e.g. community led. The reporter considers that potential developers are entitled to greater certainty over which regime their proposals would fall under. The council is therefore invited to submit appropriate criteria for that purpose.
2. The council's response states that large scale proposals would be primarily assessed against issue 68 Renewable Energy Developments. To the extent to which such proposals would be assessed against the terms of issue 37, the reporter seeks clarification as to how, for example, wind farms would be able to demonstrate that they were "sympathetic to existing patterns of development in the area". The same question would, of course, also apply to smaller proposals, which the council would assess against issue 37.

3. Issue 37 does not apply to the hinterland around towns areas. How does the council propose to assess renewable energy proposals which fall within those hinterland areas?
4. In its response to representations, the council acknowledges that proposals will be assessed on their social and economic benefits to the community and local in addition to the criteria listed in the policy. Would it therefore be appropriate to include this criterion within the issue?

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