

STOP HIGHLAND WINDFARMS CAMPAIGN

Please reply to: Mrs Pat Wells, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ms Morag Smith
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DPEA
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Your ref. LDP-270-3

The Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP) Policy 68: Further representation from Stop Highland Windfarms Campaign (SHWC).

Following consideration of the Reporter's query and the reply from Highland Council, SHWC wishes to make the following comment:

We welcome the Reporter's request for clarification and take issue with the statement by Highland Council that the "significant detriment" test will apply to the **overall** (our emphasis) assessment of the proposal. This represents a contradiction of process.

We consider the factors referred to in paragraphs one and two of Policy 68 represent a reasonably comprehensive list of issues which should be taken into account when assessing a proposal and we accept that the weight given to the factors will depend on the type of proposal. However, it is not acceptable to have a situation where a significant detrimental effect can be over-ridden or negated because other factors have a less detrimental effect. To balance out a significant detrimental effect, even if it is the only one, potentially could have very serious consequences.

Therefore we ask that the words "balancing with" and "overall" inserted into the Council's response to the DPEA are removed and the Council makes it clear that each factor will be assessed **individually** and any significant detrimental effect(s) will not be diluted by other less detrimental effects.

Pat Wells. Convener SHWC