

11 February 2020

Jennifer Mair  
The Highland Council  
Inverness

By email only to: [SEA\\_Gateway@gov.scot](mailto:SEA_Gateway@gov.scot)

Dear Ms Mair

### **Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 Housing in the Countryside Supplementary Guidance - Screening Report**

Thank you for your Screening Report consultation which SEPA received via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 6 February 2020.

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, and taking into consideration that this is guidance to support policies within the Local Development Plan which have already been subject to SEA then we consider that in respect of our main areas of interest (air, water, soil, human health, material assets (of which we have a specific interest in waste) and climatic factors) the guidance is unlikely to have significant 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 guidance will have significant strategic effects on the environment we do consider that it may have some local effects, especially in relation to impacts from drainage. We would therefore welcome consultation on the draft proposals which should be directed to me at our local Planning Service team at [planning.dingwall@sepa.org.uk](mailto:planning.dingwall@sepa.org.uk).

Should you wish to discuss this letter please do not hesitate to contact me on 01349 860359 or via SEPA's SEA Gateway at [sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk](mailto:sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Susan Haslam  
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