

Our ref: PCS/114559  
Your ref: SEA00626

If telephoning ask for:  
Susan Haslam

12 July 2011

Brian MacKenzie  
The Highland Council  
Development Plans  
Planning Development  
Glenurquhart Road  
Inverness  
IV3 5NX

By email only to: [sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

Dear Mr MacKenzie

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005**  
**Housing in the countryside and siting and design interim supplementary guidance**  
**The Highland Council**

Thank you for your Screening Report consultation submitted under the above Act in respect of the above guidance. This was received by SEPA via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 27 June 2011.

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 having previously been consulted on a draft of the guidance, we consider that in respect of our main areas of interest (air, water, soil, human health and climatic factors) the guidance is not, in itself, likely to have significant strategic 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 will have some effects. If it has changed significantly since we last saw it we would welcome further consultation.

If it is formally determined that SEA is required, you will be aware that the next stage requires the Responsible Authority to consult the Consultation Authorities on the proposed scope and level of detail to be included within the Environmental Report. The Consultation Authorities typically expect to receive a concise Scoping Report at this stage. Further information about this stage and what should be included in a Scoping Report can be found in Chapter 5 of the Scottish SEA Tool Kit available from [www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/45](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/45). We would encourage you to use the Scoping Report to focus the assessment on those SEA topics upon which there are likely to be significant environmental effects.



Chairman  
David Sigsworth  
  
Chief Executive  
Dr Campbell Gemmell

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Should you wish to discuss this consultation, 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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