

Our ref: PCS/156140
SG ref: SEA01338/scr

Peter Wheelan
Highland Council

If telephoning ask for:
Cerian Baldwin

By email only to: SEA_Gateway@gov.scot

29 November 2017

Dear Mr Wheelan

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 Developer Contributions Supplementary Guidance - Screening Report

Thank you for your Screening Report consultation which SEPA received via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 16 November 2017.

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, 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 Developer Contributions Supplementary 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.

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. This can be undertaken through preparation of a concise Scoping Report. We would encourage you to use the scoping process to focus the assessment on those SEA issues upon which there are likely to be significant environmental effects, to outline the baseline information you consider as most relevant and explain your proposed method of assessment. To assist with this process we have produced [SEA topic guidance](#) for those issues which fall within our remit. Further information on scoping can be found in the [Scottish Government SEA Guidance](#) (sections 3.4 to 3.8 in particular).

We are committed to providing early and focused advice and supporting continuous engagement and therefore if it is determined that SEA is required we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss these issues prior to the formal consultation.

Should you wish to discuss this screening consultation please do not hesitate to contact me on 01349 860415 or via our SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Cerian Baldwin
Senior Planning Officer
Planning Service

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