

Andrew Ballantine
Perth and Kinross Council
Pullar House
35 Kinnoull Street
Perth
PH1 5GD

22 July 2019

By email only to: SEA_Gateway@gov.scot

Dear Andrew

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005 FORESTRY AND WOODLAND STRATEGY - SCREENING REPORT

Thank you for your Screening Report consultation, which SEPA received via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 27 June 2019.

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.

We note that the screening report advises that the proposed supplementary guidance (SG) comprises of a minor update to the existing SG. The statement of findings also clarifies that the existing SG has been subject to full SEA already and required updates will only be minor and that as such will not result in any significant changes to the overall strategy, vision or objectives of the SG and resultant outputs.

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 Forest and Woodland Strategy is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. Although we are of the view that significant environmental effects are not likely, it is for the Perth and Kinross 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 Forest and Woodland Strategy will have significant strategic effects on the environment we do consider that it may have some effects. We would therefore welcome consultation on the draft proposals, which should be directed to our local Planning Service team at planning.se@sepa.org.uk.

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 01738 448193 or via our SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Sheena Jamieson
Senior Planning Officer

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