



CONSULTATIONS

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: A CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL (16/09/04 - SE) Following previous consultation earlier this year on the implementation of EC Directive 2001/42/EC on SEA, the Executive is now consulting on detailed implementation and on the principles of the Bill which will implement plans to extend SEA well beyond the scope of the Directive. Proposals will go beyond European legislation to ensure that *all* public sector plans, strategies and programmes are scrutinised for environmental impact. A draft Bill is expected to be introduced into Parliament in January 2005. The closing date for responses is 29 October 2004. To view the consultation document visit:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/environment/seacpea-00.asp>

LAND REFORM (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 – SECTION 8 ORDER (16/09/04 — SE) The purpose of this consultation is to amend section 7(10), to bring woods and forests within access rights by changing the definition of crops. Part 1 of this Act establishes rights of responsible access to land and inland water for recreation, passage and other purposes, with certain exclusions for reasons of safety, privacy and security. Part 1 of the Act is expected to come into effect later this year or early in 2005. The closing date for this consultation is 8 December 2004. To view the consultation visit:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/rural/dlroc-00.asp>

A STRATEGY FOR SCOTLAND'S COAST AND INSHORE WATERS (29/09/04 — SE) The Scottish Coastal Forum has developed a national strategy for the management of the Scottish coast. This was presented to, and welcomed by, the Scottish Executive in July 2004. The Executive is now seeking views on the strategy by 17 December 2004. The strategy can be viewed at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/environment/scfcl-00.asp>

SCOTTISH PLANNING (SPP 16 OPEN CAST COAL PUBLIC CONSULTATION) (15/09/04 — SE) The draft sets out the proposed new national planning policy framework for the working of opencast coal. It updates, revises and clarifies the contents of National Planning Policy Guideline 16: Opencast Coal and Related Minerals to reflect developments in policy. The closing date for this consultation is 3 December 2004. To view the consultation, visit:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/planning/occd.pdf>

CULTURE COMMISSION SURVEY (28/09/04) As part of its Review, the Culture Commission is undertaking a study into the input of the voluntary sector to culture in Scotland. **All voluntary cultural groups** (which under the remit of the Commission includes architecture and built heritage interests) are encouraged to complete and submit a response to the online survey by the deadline of 11 November 2004. The survey can be found at:

<http://www.b-k.co.uk/voluntary/culturalcommissionvoluntaryinput.htm>

PUBLICATIONS

BUILDING A BETTER SCOTLAND – SPENDING PROPOSALS 2005-8: ENTERPRISE, OPPORTUNITY, FAIRNESS (29/09/04)

The Scottish Executive spending plans for 2005-8. To view the proposals, visit:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/enterprise/babs-00.asp>

CONSULTATION RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION ON: DRAFT CHARITIES AND TRUSTEE INVESTMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL (24/09/04) Publicly available responses to the consultation which concluded on 25 August.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/social/ctisb-00.asp>

HISTORIC SCOTLAND: HISTORIC SCOTLAND - STAKEHOLDER RESEARCH (23/09/04) This report presents the findings of research commissioned by Historic Scotland into the perceptions of the Agency's key stakeholders. The research focused on two key issues: attitudes towards Scotland's built heritage and perceptions of how Historic Scotland is performing in relation to its various roles and responsibilities. To view the research findings visit:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/culture/hssr-00.asp>
(summary at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/cru/resfinds/ocr6-00.asp>)

PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (23/09/04) Research findings (commissioned by the Scottish Executive Architecture Policy Unit) on the public's awareness of issues surrounding the built environment. The research provides baseline data on public interest and involvement in the local built environment. To view the full research report visit:
http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/education/pabe_fr.pdf
(summary report at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/cru/resfinds/edrf3-00.asp>)

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO DRAFT SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY 15 – PLANNING FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (23/09/04) The publication is a summary of responses to the consultative draft which concluded on 21 April 2004. To view the summary visit:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/planning/prdcsr-00.asp>

KEY SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS (21/09/04) An annual booklet that provides key data sets on the state of the environment in Scotland.
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00365-00.asp>

EVENTS & TRAINING

AHSS WINTER LECTURE SERIES 2004-05: The first of the AHSS Winter Lectures will be taking place on the 4 October at 6.30pm at The Glasite Meeting House, 33 Barony Street, Edinburgh. The subject of the first lecture is on the topic of the Production of Rococo Wallpaper in Scotland. Admission charges are £5 for non-members/£4 members and £2 students. For more information please call 0131 557 0049.

THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE EXPLAINED A Holyrood seminar on the work of the Scottish Executive will take place on 4 October in Edinburgh. For booking information call 0131 272 2130, or visit www.holyrood.com.

THE EUROPEAN UNION EXPLAINED A Holyrood seminar on European policy issues and how to engage will take place on 2 November in Edinburgh. For booking information call 0131 272 2130, or visit www.holyrood.com.

ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION: A one-day conference on the Scottish Environmental Information Regulations which, following consultation, will come into force in January 2005 in tandem with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act. The conference will take place on 22 November in Edinburgh. For booking information call 0131 272 2130, or visit www.holyrood.com.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE NEWS RELEASES

PLAN LAYS FOUNDATION OF HOMES FOR ALL (30/09/2004) The Communities Minister has announced a one-third increase in housing approval rates over current levels, rising from around 6, 000 homes to 8, 000 per year by 2007/8. The increase in social rented homes will help towards the 2012 target to give all homeless people the entitlement to a permanent home.

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK APPOINTMENTS (24/09/2004) Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Development, Allan Wilson announced the appointment of two new local authority nominated members to the 25

member Board of the Cairngorms National Park Authority. The new appointments are Marcus Humphrey and Sandy Park.

SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE (17/09/2004) Dr John Markland CBE will continue to serve as Chair of Scottish Natural Heritage for a further 18 months from 1 April 2005. Dr Markland, who has chaired the organisation since April 1999, was granted an extension to his appointment which will now end on 30 September 2006.

OTHER NEWS RELEASES

CABE COMES OF AGE, AS GOVERNMENT'S DESIGN CHAMPION HAILS NEW ARCHITECTURAL RENAISSANCE IN OUR TOWNS AND CITIES (22/09/04). As CABE (the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment) celebrates its fifth birthday, it has hailed the emergence of a new architectural renaissance in many of our core towns and cities since the turn of the millennium.

NEW PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

S2W-10714 Rosemary Byrne (17/09/04) To ask the Scottish Executive what criteria require to be met prior to any proposed loss of green space in urban areas being referred to the Executive.

S2W-10718 Rosemary Byrne (17/09/04) To ask the Scottish Executive what the legal position is in respect of planning applications that are dependent on land being purchased from a local authority being considered by the same local authority.

S2W-10739 Rosemary Byrne (17/09/04) To ask the Scottish Executive what financial support is available to local authorities to regenerate town centres.

S2W-10875 Murray Tosh (23/09/04) To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S2W-9567 by Mr Frank McAveety on 10 August 2004, when it expects to receive the report on Caisteal Tioram's current structural condition and the statement of its cultural significance from Historic Scotland and whether it intends to publish both reports.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q S2W-10075 Fergus Ewing: CASTLE TIORAM

A Scottish ministers' decisions on Scheduled Monument Consent applications are routinely delegated to Historic Scotland, an agency directly accountable to Scottish ministers. Historic Scotland receives around 200 such applications each year. It has not been the agency's normal policy to publicise the outcome of consent applications either at the time of the decision or subsequently. However, copies of the decision letter are routinely sent at the time of issue to the local authority and those with a specific interest in the land affected e.g. as owner or tenant. In the case of Castle Tioram, no additional publicity was given to the decision at the time nor, for legal reasons, during the period when the applicant's appeal was before the Court of Session. Since then information on the decision has been provided in answers to parliamentary questions and in discussions, for example at a meeting of Highland MSPs. **(Frank McAveety, 09/09/04)**

Q S2O-3180 Des McNulty: STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

A The proposed Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Bill will ensure that all public plans, programmes and strategies likely to have significant environmental effects are subject to strategic environmental assessment. It is proposed that public authorities responsible for plans subject to the bill should be required to consult Historic Scotland, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage and the public on the environmental consequences of the alternative approaches under consideration. Further, they would then be required to demonstrate how they have taken account of every opinion expressed. **(Ross Finnie, 16/09/04)**

Q S2W – 10083 Sandra White (24/08/04): CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY LICENSING

A The Scottish construction trade associations have developed a self-regulation scheme run by the Construction Licensing Executive (CLE), with support from Scottish Enterprise Glasgow, which aims to protect domestic consumers and raise industry standards. **(Lewis Macdonald, 17/09/04)**

Q S20-3189 Sarah Boyack: ROLE OF GREENBELT

A Green belts fulfill a number of functions. For example, they can maintain the landscape setting of settlements, and they can also encourage the re-use of vacant or derelict urban land. **(Mary Mulligan, 17/09/04)**

Q S2W - 10739 Rosemary Byrne (17/09/04): FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

A No specific support is available to local authorities to regenerate town centres. However, Scottish local authorities are now responsible for deciding how much they can afford to spend on investment in capital infrastructure. Additionally, local authorities are receiving above inflation increases in revenue grant, but it is up to each local authority to decide how best to allocate these resources based on local needs and priorities. **(Margaret Curran, 29/09/04)**

Q S2W - 10718 Rosemary Byrne (17/09/04): PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A As far as the requirements of planning legislation are concerned, a planning authority must process a planning application in which they have an interest as they would any other. In addition, the Town and Country Planning (Notification of Applications) (Scotland) Direction 1997, as amended, includes requirements on planning authorities to notify certain planning applications in which they have an interest to the Scottish ministers before they grant planning permission. These notification requirements apply where any planning authority proposes to grant planning permission for development to be located on land wholly or partly in their ownership or in which they have an interest, and the proposed development does not accord with the adopted or approved local plan for the area or has been the subject of a substantial body of objections. Notification allows the Scottish ministers to consider whether there are any planning issues which would warrant call in of the application for their determination. **(Mary Mulligan, 30/09/04)**

Information in the Bulletin is extracted from a number of websites (mainly Scottish Executive and Scottish Parliament). If you have any questions or comments on the above, or would like to submit information to be included, please get in touch with Chris Stuart or Jo Robertson (née Varley) at the BEFS office on 0131 556 5353.