



## BULLETIN (46) 20 MAY 2005

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### CONSULTATIONS

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SE 16/05/05)** This consultation invites comments on the Executive's proposals for implementing Article 3 of European Directive 2003/35/EC (known as the Public Participation Directive) which amends Council Directive 85/337/EEC (known as the Environmental Impact Assessment or EIA Directive) mainly with regard to public participation provisions. Closing date for responses is 5 August 2005.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/927/0011859.pdf>

### PUBLICATIONS

**REPORT ON INQUIRY INTO CLIMATE CHANGE - SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ENVIRONMENT & RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (18/05/05)** The Scottish Parliament's Environment and Rural Development Committee has urged the Scottish Executive to take radical action to help address climate change, as Scotland lags behind the rest of the UK in reducing its emissions levels.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/committees/environment/reports-05/rar05-05-vol01-01.htm>

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-comm-05/cenv05-005.htm>

**INITIAL EVALUATION OF PPP PROJECTS (13/05/05)** Research published recently evaluates the performance of Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects in Scotland. The main findings include: The majority of authorities considered PPP to represent good or excellent value for money; PPP procurement resulted in significant improvements over conventional procurement in delivering projects on time and within budget; Respondents said there was a "generally healthy" level of competition for the PPP projects surveyed, although the level of competition appears to have reduced in recent years; Authorities were happy with design quality; Some concerns were raised about the flexibility of PPP contracts; There was evidence that PPP stimulated innovation; The research found no evidence that PPP operators delivered a better or worse standard of service than the public sector.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/05/05153704/37067>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/05/05153838/38399>

**PROTECTING SCOTLAND'S CARVED STONES (11/05/05)** A strategy document providing guidance for the care and protection of carved stones has been unveiled by the Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport Patricia Ferguson. Carved stones provide a very real link to more than 5000 years of human activity in Scotland and are an important and significantly large proportion of the monuments and artifacts that survive from past times. Carved stones help to define the character of our environment and present-day identities, both local and national.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/05/11110433>

<http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/carvedstones/carvedstonespolicy.htm>

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### EVENTS

**EDINBURGH CITY REGION CONFERENCE 2005:** 26 May 2005, Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh. For more information on this event please contact Pat Herd at the Centre for Scottish Public Policy on 0131 558 8179 for more information and registration form.

**CITY DESIGN CHAMPION LECTURES – ICONIC BUILDINGS:** 26 May 2005, 6-7pm (doors open 5.30pm), Royal Museum Lecture Theatre, Chambers Street, Edinburgh. Speaker will be Benedetta Tagliabue. Admittance is by ticket only – contact Christina Black at City Development – 0131 529 3162, [christina.black@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:christina.black@edinburgh.gov.uk).

**CLIMATE CHANGE – FOCUS ON SCOTLAND CONFERENCE:** 6 June, Crieff Hydro. The Executive and Perth & Kinross Council will bring together leading academics, politicians, businesses and experts next month to share knowledge on the challenges posed by climate change. The conference forms part of an extensive programme of events taking place across Scotland to encourage engagement with the key themes of G8 Summit. Major topics for the workshops at the conference will include, renewable energy, the role of energy conservation, opportunities for business, climate change and adaptation, greening your organisation and carbon neutral initiatives. To register for the conference call 01786 826 550 or register online at: [www.blueprintconference.com/climatechange](http://www.blueprintconference.com/climatechange)

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## SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE NEWS RELEASES

**SUPPORT FOR CONSTRUCTION AND DEFENCE BUSINESSES (18/05/05)** Money from the SEEKIT (Scottish Executive Expertise, Knowledge & Innovation Transfer) fund will go to the project 'Sustainability in Scottish Construction SMEs', run by Glasgow Caledonian University. This project will receive £85,870 to help construction SMEs use innovative measures to improve competitiveness and efficiency. The SEEKIT programme supports universities, research institutes and other public sector bodies to put in place the infrastructure needed to facilitate co-operation in research and development (R&D) and productive knowledge transfer between the Scottish public sector science base and our companies.

**PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE OF SCOTLAND'S FIRST NATIONAL PARK (16/05/05)** Proposals which could shape the future of one of Scotland's most scenic areas were launched recently by Deputy Environment Minister Lewis Macdonald. The draft plan for the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park is the first of its kind in Scotland. It sets out how the Park Authority proposes to guide the development, conservation and enhancement of the area.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/05/16113900>

**FUNDING FOR CROFTERS' HOMES (04/05/05)** Deputy Rural Development Minister Lewis Macdonald recently announced the priority areas for the new Croft House Grant Scheme and awards of £2 million to crofters with existing applications. This will allow more than 100 crofters to build new houses or improve existing croft houses with their share of funding from the new scheme which targets money to where it is needed most by providing different levels of grant in different priority areas.

## NEWS RELEASES

**INVERNESS CITY HERITAGE TRUST LAUNCHED (16/05/05 HS)** The Inverness City Heritage Trust was officially launched recently by John Graham, Chief Executive of Historic Scotland. The Trust will offer grants to property owners for the repair and enhancement of historic buildings in Inverness. It will also promote the understanding and enjoyment of the city's unique cultural heritage through a range of activities. To achieve this Historic Scotland will provide the trust with funding of £750,000 over three years.

<http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/news-full-article.htm?articleid=16173>

**HISTORIC BUILDINGS REPAIR GRANTS SCHEME RE-LAUNCHES (16/05/05 HS)** Owners of historic buildings across Scotland can now apply to Historic Scotland for a historic environment grant. Following a consultation on new grant proposals last year, Historic Scotland have taken on board the responses received from a range of stakeholders and have put in place a more streamlined system of historic buildings repair grants which will be piloted for two years.

<http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/news-full-article.htm?articleid=16133>

**CULTURE MINISTER ANNOUNCES HERITAGE AUDIT (11/05/05 HS)** Culture Minister Patricia Ferguson recently announced the introduction of a heritage audit as a crucial element in building on our understanding of Scotland's historic environment. Following the advice of the Historic Environment Advisory Council for Scotland (HEACS), which recommended that there was a need for an audit, Ms Ferguson has commissioned Historic Scotland to co-ordinate a comprehensive audit, which will build on the wealth of existing information about Scotland's historic environment. It will also help to identify trends and issues relevant to the health of the historic environment and the impact and benefits of the resources used to manage and protect it.

<http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/news-full-article.htm?articleid=16142>

**RIAS APPOINTS NEW CE (02/05/05)** Mary Wrenn has been appointed the new Chief Executive of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS). Mary is currently Director of the Royal Society of Architects in Wales (RSAW), a position she has held since 1993. Through strong leadership, communication skills and personal enthusiasm, Mary is credited with transforming the Society from a modestly active RIBA region into a vibrant and effective national organisation with strong member support.

[http://www.rias.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=s2\\_10&newsid=1445&back=home](http://www.rias.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=s2_10&newsid=1445&back=home)

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## MOTIONS & BILLS

**\*S2M-2825 MALCOLM CHISHOLM: VOLUNTARY SECTOR AND THE SOCIAL ECONOMY (18/05/05)** That the Parliament recognises the contribution that the voluntary sector and social economy make to Scotland; supports the Scottish Executive's continued commitment to developing them through Futurebuilders Scotland, the Volunteering Strategy and Project Scotland and the development and promotion of legislation on charities; supports the Strategic Funding Review being undertaken with SCVO and COSLA; welcomes the establishment of a Social Economy Advisory Board, and supports the Executive in developing a detailed strategy, in partnership with the voluntary sector, for the sector's future.

**S2M-2803 MARK RUSKELL: CO-HOUSING (13/05/05)** That the Parliament welcomes the conference to be held at Glasgow Caledonian University, "A Roadmap to Sustainable Co-Housing for Older People – planning the route" for bringing the notable work of co-housing projects to Scotland's attention; acknowledges the increasing interest in co-housing amongst many Scottish communities, although there are currently no built projects in Scotland; applauds the work of the innovative pilot project, Vivarium, in Fife for its intention to create an affordable, self-managed co-housing project for older people; believes that co-housing projects have the potential to provide positive, co-operative and sustainable community-led housing environments that combine the autonomy of private dwellings with the advantages of community living; further notes that co-housing projects have been well-established, successful and popular in countries such as Denmark, Holland, Aotearoa/New Zealand and the United States of America for many years, and calls on the Scottish Executive to investigate the benefits of co-housing and how support for it can be integrated into wider housing policy.

**S2M-2801 ROBERT BROWN: RIGHT TO BUY (12/05/05)** That the Parliament notes the need for provision for pressured area status in respect of right to buy under the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001; notes, however, the lack of take-up of the status by local authorities and the extent of the requirements made of local authorities by the Scottish Executive on the matter; believes that a balanced use of right to buy requires an effective pressured area status, and takes the view that the Executive should simplify the criteria required to obtain pressured area status.

**S2M-2761 # RICHARD LOCHHEAD: SCOTLAND'S ENERGY FUTURE (13/05/05)** That the Parliament notes with alarm rising energy prices and recognises the subsequent threat to the Scottish economy and the quality of life for our citizens; further notes that there is an urgent need for governments and societies throughout the world to focus their attention on the issues of energy security and affordability, as well as the environmental impact of current energy use; believes that the need for greater energy self-sufficiency will become increasingly important; further believes that Scotland is well placed to meet these challenges; recognises the urgent requirement for the Scottish Executive to turn its attention to this issue to ensure that meeting Scotland's energy needs is a greater political priority in the future, and considers that ministers should accelerate the development of a mix of renewable energy technologies.

**S2M-2754 ROSIE KANE: EXCLUSION OF COMMUNITIES FROM THE PLANNING PROCESS (13/05/05)** That the Parliament rejects any proposal by the Scottish Executive to restrict public input into the planning process; recognises that the planning process requires change but notes that any change should be in the interest of democracy and inclusion; believes that local knowledge is imperative when planning decisions are being made and is concerned that the Executive is reacting negatively and undemocratically to increased interest by communities in its activities and is openly attempting to curb that access, and demands that the First Minister explain to the public whether, and, if so, why, the Executive has decided to preclude citizens from the decision making process.

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## NEW PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

**S2W-16600 RICHARD LOCHHEAD (17/05/05)** To ask the Scottish Executive to what extent conditions are attached to public housing subsidy to help encourage sustainability and innovative design.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-05/bb-05-17e.htm>

**S2W-16599 RICHARD LOCHHEAD (17/05/05)** To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will list all studies into (a) housing design, (b) sustainable building techniques and (c) innovative housing that it funded in each of the last five years, showing the cost of each study.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-05/bb-05-17e.htm>

**S2W-16598 RICHARD LOCHHEAD (17/05/05)** To ask the Scottish Executive what level of Communities Scotland's funding has been allocated in each of the last three years for the purpose of (a) building and (b) conducting research and development into innovative and sustainable housing, shown also as a percentage of total Communities Scotland funding in each year.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-05/bb-05-17e.htm>

**S2W-16332 BRIAN MONTEITH (11/05/05)** To ask the Scottish Executive, further to its announcement on 28 April 2005 of £1.1 million funding for the "hydrogen office", how much electricity will be used to obtain the hydrogen from water and what the fuel source of this electricity will be.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-05/bb-05-11e.htm>

**S2W-16437 RICHARD LOCHHEAD (11/05/05)** To ask the Scottish Executive to what extent the potential impact on the marine environment of offshore wind farms has been assessed.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-05/bb-05-12e.htm>

## PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ANSWERED

**Q (S2W-16154) NORA RADCLIFFE, ENVIRONMENT**

**A** Scottish greenhouse gas emissions data are available in Greenhouse Gas Inventories for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: 1999-2002, a copy of which has been placed in the Parliament's Reference Centre. The inventories identify carbon dioxide emissions from cement production. In 2002, carbon dioxide emissions from cement production accounted for 0.7% of Scotland's total carbon dioxide emissions. **ROSS FINNIE (10/05/05)**

**Q (S2W-16117) MARGARET JAMIESON, PLANNING**

**A** Under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, planning authorities have access to a range of powers to enable them to ensure that development is carried out in accordance with planning permission. Local authorities are individually responsible for allocating resources to planning enforcement within their budgets. Planning authorities have responsibility for determining whether or not a development is in breach of planning legislation and, if so, for determining the appropriate remedial action to be taken. **JOHANN LAMONT (05/05/05)**

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Information in the Bulletin is extracted from a number of websites; such as the Scottish Executive (SE); the Scottish Parliament (SP); Architecture and Design Scotland (A+DS); Historic Scotland (HS); Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH); Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO); English Heritage (EH); Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE); Department of Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA); National Assembly for Wales (NAW). For further information, links are provided to the relevant documents. 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 [cstuart@befso.org.uk](mailto:cstuart@befso.org.uk) or Jo Robertson [jrobertson@befso.org.uk](mailto:jrobertson@befso.org.uk) at the BEFS office on 0131 556 5353.