



BULLETIN (52) 13 SEPTEMBER 2005

CONSULTATIONS

CROFT HOUSE GRANT SCHEME: CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR A REVISED SCHEME AND THE CROFT HOUSE GRANT (SCOTLAND) SCHEME 2005 (12/09/05) Consultation on proposals to ensure that croft houses, built or improved with the aid of grants, continue to be used for crofting purposes. Deadline for responses: 5 December 2005.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/08/22111008/10095>

SPP 4: MINERAL WORKING (31/08/05) Construction aggregates, supplemented by recycled and secondary aggregates are the foundations of the built environment. When finalised, this SPP replaces NPPG 4, and provides the policy framework that planning authorities should use when preparing their development plans and in determining planning applications. The SPP reflects up-to-date planning policy and changes are based on a review of NPPG 4's effectiveness. Deadline for responses: 25 November 2005.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/08/31125632/56332>

TOURISM IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS: A CONSULTATION ON THE TOURISM (SCOTLAND) BILL (28/07/05) This document invites your views about the changes proposed for inclusion in the Tourism (Scotland) Bill. These changes are intended to put the VisitScotland integrated tourism network onto a permanent legal footing. The key proposal is the abolition of the current two Network Area Tourist Boards (the temporary means by which the integrated tourism network was established in April 2005) to create VisitScotland as a single legal entity. Deadline for responses: 3 December 2005.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/09/tourism-consultation/contents>

THE 1954 HAGUE CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT AND ITS TWO PROTOCOLS OF 1954 AND 1999 (DCMS 02/09/05) This consultation paper represents an important step towards the UK's ratification of the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (the Hague Convention) and its two protocols. DCMS is consulting stakeholders on a number of aspects of the Convention and Protocols in relation to implementation in the UK. Deadline for responses: 2 December 2005.

<http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/consultations/>

PUBLICATIONS

SINGLE SURVEY PILOT SUMMARY: EVALUATION OF THE SINGLE SURVEY PILOT (SE 05/09/05) This Pilot followed the recommendation of the Housing Improvement Task Force for a single survey approach to house purchase in Scotland. The key function of the Pilot was to test whether there could be a market-led solution to the concept of a Single Survey. Only 74 surveys were commissioned, predominantly in Glasgow. Therefore, the clear finding of this pilot is that there has been no voluntary market-driven solution to the Single Survey concept.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/09/05165527/55281>

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE DRAFT BUDGET 2006-7 (SE 06/09/05) The Scottish Executive's draft budget for 2006-7.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/09/06112356/23573>

RESPONSES TO DRAFT CROFTING REFORM (SCOTLAND) BILL (SE 08/09/05) Letters received in response to the consultation.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/09/08115214/52154>

PLANNING AGREEMENTS AND POSITIVE PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES IN SCOTLAND (SE 08/09/05) In the context of the proposed Planning Bill for Scotland, this report considers how the planning system might provide

for planning "agreements" / "obligations" / "gain". The research has also considered planning agreements an appropriate means of facilitating the delivery of affordable housing. The consultation indicated that the new Bill should retain planning agreement clauses. However these should be rewritten to explicitly set the parameters of necessity, proportionality and reasonableness as presently expressed in Circular 12/1996. Circular 12/1996 would consequently require to be withdrawn and reissued.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/09/0893247/32478>

LOCAL PLANS: MEETING AREA WASTE PLAN OBJECTIVES (SE 09/09/05) This report assesses the extent to which local plans in Scotland provide a positive planning policy framework to help support delivery of the infrastructure requirements of Scotland's Area Waste Plans. It takes the objectives of the National Waste Plan and Area Waste Plans into account to record the extent to which local plans can support a move towards sustainable waste management as required by both national and European guidance and legislation.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/09/08121328/13289>

ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION - GUIDANCE FOR SCOTTISH PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND INTERESTED PARTIES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2004: LATEST UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2005: PAPER 2005/21 (SE 12/09/05) Guidance on the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 Updated (Sept 2005).

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/09/12134712/47142>

SEAS THE OPPORTUNITY: A STRATEGY FOR THE LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF SCOTLAND'S COASTS AND SEAS (SE 12/09/05) This document sets out a new Scottish marine and coastal strategy, to be taken forward through stakeholder participation and is, in turn, the Scottish Executive's formal response to the outcome of the 2004 consultation on "Developing a Strategic Framework for Scotland's Marine Environment" (March 2004, Paper 2004/6). A new marine action group, to be chaired by Environment Minister Ross Finnie, will be established to provide advice on delivering the objectives of the Marine and Coastal Strategy, including proposals to establish Scotland's first Marine and Coastal National Park.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/08/26102543/25444>

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE NEWS RELEASES

STATEMENT ON LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME (06/09/05) The First Minister Jack McConnell has set out the Executive's legislation programme for the next 19 months. The First Minister called it a programme focused on: justice and respect; to ensure no child is left behind or held back; for health improvement and for growing economic prosperity for all of Scotland to share. The full statement can be viewed at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/News-Extras/legprog2005>

NEWS RELEASES

CULTURE MINISTER WELCOMES SCOTLAND'S 15TH DOORS OPEN DAYS AND SCOTTISH ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH EVENTS (HS 07/09/05) Every weekend during September, a diverse range of outstanding or unusual buildings throughout Scotland, which are normally closed to the public, will open their doors, free of charge, as part of the Doors Open Days scheme. There is also the chance to enjoy and find out more about Scotland's rich archaeological heritage through the Scottish Archaeological Month initiative. Both these events make up Scotland's contribution to European Heritage Days.

<http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/news-full-article.htm?articleid=17580>

£2.9 MILLION BOOST TO PROTECT SCOTLANDS FINEST LANDSCAPES (SNH 08/09/05) Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has agreed funding of £2.9 million for a three-year work programme with the National Trust for Scotland, to cover a wide range of work, from monitoring of rare species such as the red squirrel and capercaillie, to management of habitats like native woodlands and moorland, and conservation of wild and designed landscapes. It will also encourage public access and enjoyment of the environment, through support of the Trust's ranger service.

<http://www.snh.org.uk/scripts-snh/nw-displ.asp?ID=1272>

REVISED BUILDING REGULATIONS TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE (ODPM 13/09/05) New measures to make buildings more energy efficient will save one million tonnes of carbon per year by 2010, equivalent to emissions from more than one million semi-detached homes, ODPM and DEFRA have announced. The changes to Parts F and L (ventilation and fuel conservation) of the Building Regulations two years ahead of schedule from April 2006 and the implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive will make a major contribution to the UK's commitment to combat climate change. This will mean new homes will need to be better insulated and make use of more efficient heating systems. The Government is also announcing a wide-ranging review to look at improving energy efficiency standards of existing buildings.

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/displaypn.cgi?pn_id=2005_0191

MOTIONS & BILLS

***S2M-3219# JOHN FARQUHAR MUNRO: FUTURE OF CROFTING (05/09/05)** That the Parliament recognises the importance of crofting to the social and economic life of the Highlands and Islands and wishes to see the continuation of sustainable crofting communities; shares the concerns of crofting communities, such as those in Skye and Lochalsh and throughout the crofting counties, regarding the threat to crofting communities from the lack of action by the Crofters Commission over the decrofting of land and sale of crofts, and from absentee crofters and dereliction; believes that crofting tenancies should not be sold on the open market which is currently allowing local people to be outbid by those with no understanding of, or long-term commitment to, crofting and the crofting community, and further believes that if this continues it will, in a generation, lead to the end of crofting in everything but name.

***S2M-3214 ELEANOR SCOTT: SUSTAINABLE TIMBER CERTIFICATION STANDARDS (05/09/05)** That the Parliament supports the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification scheme for sustainably produced timber; notes that this is the only certification scheme that is generally accepted by all stakeholders, including environment groups, as ensuring environmentally and socially responsible timber sourcing; further notes its concern that alternative certification schemes, including the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), represent a dilution of standards for sustainability as assessed by the Central Point for Expertise on Timber, established by the UK Government, and calls on the Scottish Executive to ensure that FSC certification remains the standard for public procurement in Scotland.

***S2M-3204# MURDO FRASER: PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR WIND POWER DEVELOPMENTS (05/09/05)** That the Parliament notes that 17 planning applications for onshore wind power developments have been referred to ministers on appeal after being refused by local authorities since 1999; is concerned at the high number of applications that are referred to ministers after they are democratically rejected at local level; believes that, when a rejected application is referred to ministers on appeal, the Scottish Executive should ensure that a public inquiry is held in order to have all issues considered and aired in public; further believes that all groups involved with wind farm applications, which include local authorities, community councillors, anti and pro-wind farm action groups, wind farm developers and the general public, agree that the current planning strategy and guidelines are inadequate, and considers that Scotland needs a national renewable energy strategy with up-to-date national guidelines for the siting of onshore wind farms.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

S2W-18805 MARGARET JAMIESON (05/09/05) To ask the Scottish Executive how many planning applications approved by local authorities have been called in by the Executive in each year since 1999, broken down by local authority.

S2W-18815 MARK RUSKELL (05/09/05) To ask the Scottish Executive how it will consider the need for a spatial framework or regional targets for wind farms as part of the review of National Planning Policy Guideline 6.

S2W-18829 MARK RUSKELL (05/09/05) To ask the Scottish Executive whether there are any plans to reform the provisions that exist for third-party interests to influence decisions on planning applications for agricultural buildings.

S2W-18938 LINDA FABIANI (06/09/05) To ask the Scottish Executive what consideration it is giving to the reintroduction of grant funding to private developers for the provision of low-cost housing.

S2W-18944 ELAINE MURRAY (06/09/05) To ask the Scottish Executive how it is encouraging the use of solar panels in new-build properties.

S2W-19159 DONALD GORRIE (12/09/05) To ask the Scottish Executive what plans it has in its housing budget to allocate additional funds per house to enable new social housing to include sustainable energy-conserving features which will repay the initial capital costs.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q (S2W-18373) PATRICK HARVIE: NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK

A Scottish ministers are committed to ensuring that Parliament has the opportunity to contribute to the development of the second National Planning Framework. We will bring forward proposals for parliamentary involvement in the process before the introduction of the Planning Bill. **MALCOLM CHISHOLM (01/09/05)**

Q (S2W-18492) SARAH BOYACK: ENERGY EFFICIENCY

A The Scottish Executive announced on 7 December 2004 its plans to publish an energy efficiency strategy for Scotland. The strategy will set a framework, define objectives and create a more joined-up approach for energy efficiency interventions by the Executive. We expect to publish the strategy later this year. **ALLAN WILSON (07/09/05)**

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); Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM); Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS); 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 Jo Robertson jrobertson@befso.org.uk at the BEFS office on 0131 556 5353.