

CONSULTATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY DIRECTIVE - A CONSULTATION (SE 21/12/06)

Seeking views on the main policy issues arising in the transposition in Scotland of EU legislation which affects the liability of those operators risking or causing significant environmental damage.

Deadline for responses: 23/03/07

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/01/04155835/0>

PUBLICATIONS

A PARTNERSHIP FOR A BETTER SCOTLAND - DELIVERING OUR COMMITMENTS (SE 29/12/06)

A Partnership for a Better Scotland – Delivering our Commitments details the achievements of the Government in relation to its current term of office.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/12/28151815/0>

PLANNING ADVICE NOTE 80: CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF FLY-POSTING (SE 28/12/06)

Draws on recent research as well as existing initiatives, policies and best practice across Scotland, the UK and further afield to highlight how local authorities can effectively control and manage illegal poster advertising in urban and rural areas.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/12/08092458/0>

CODE OF PRACTICE ON LITTER AND REFUSE ISSUED UNDER SECTION 89 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1990 (18/12/06)

Guidance on dealing with litter and refuse and expected standards of street cleanliness.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/12/13125718/0>

SPP10 PLANNING FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT - CONSULTATION RESPONSES (SE 18/12/06)

Consultation responses.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/12/18103758/0>

PART 1 LAND REFORM (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003: CODE OF PRACTICE FOR LOCAL INQUIRIES INTO CORE PATHS PLANS AND OTHER INQUIRIES UNDER PART ONE OF THE ACT (SE 12/12/06)

This Code of Practice provides detailed guidance on the operation of procedures for inquiries which may be held under section 18(4) of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Such inquiries will be held in cases where objections have been made to a draft core path plan and have not been resolved and withdrawn, and in other cases where directed by the Scottish Ministers.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/12/12103718/0>

CONSULTATION REPORT – IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLES 7, 8 AND 9 ON THE EU DIRECTIVE ON THE ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF BUILDINGS (SE 11/12/06)

Report on the consultation on implementation of articles 7, 8 and 9 on the EU Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/12/energy-performance-report>

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 'PLANNING WITH PEOPLE' CONSULTATION DRAFT RESPONSES (SE 11/12/06)

Consultation responses.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/12/08125517/0>

CHOOSING OUR FUTURE - SECOND PROGRESS REPORT (10/11/06)

Second quarterly report on progress in implementing Choosing our Future, Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/SustainableDevelopment/2ndprogressreport>

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE NEWS RELEASES

NEW COMMUNITIES MINISTER (SE 09/01/07)

Rhona Brankin, the Deputy Environment and Rural Development Minister, has been appointed as the new Communities Minister to replace Malcolm Chisholm who resigned last month. Ms Brankin's deputy environment portfolio is taken over by Sarah Boyack, constituency MSP for Edinburgh Central.

<http://www.scottishexecutive.gov.uk/News/Releases/2007/01/09112513>

NEWS RELEASES

CABE HAILS THE PACE-SETTERS FOR 2007 (CABE 02/01/07)

CABE is beginning the new year by highlighting the individuals and organisations who, by championing well-designed buildings and spaces, have set the standards for design in 2007. Each year CABE gives a Festive Five Award to five individuals, five public sector organisations and five private companies whose forward thinking and high aspirations have resulted in great architecture and design. This year the awards focus on school design and inclusive design - two of CABE's core priorities. For the full list of award recipients and their projects, follow the link below.

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/default.aspx?contentitemid=1677>

NEW PILOTS ANNOUNCED TO PUSH POLICY ON FLOODING AND COASTAL EROSION (DEFRA 04/01/07)

The role that trees can play in cutting the risk of flooding is to be investigated in a new Defra funded study aimed at pushing the boundaries of policy on flooding and coastal erosion. Other projects will consider the contribution farm land can make in reducing flood risk as well as how communities can better adapt to the pressures of coastal erosion.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2007/070104a.htm>

ZERO-CARBON HOMES - DELIVERING THE AGENDA (DCLG 09/01/07)

Extracts from a speech given by Yvette Cooper MP to The Home Builders Federation Roundtable Summit on 9 January 2007.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1505511>

RECENT PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

S2W-30723 SYLVIA JACKSON (22/12/06) To ask the Scottish Executive what economic, social and environmental benefits have arisen as a result of the designation and management of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

RECENT PARLIAMENTARY ANSWERS

S2W-30383 - FERGUS EWING (06/12/06) To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will reform the law relating to the requirement for wind turbines for domestic dwellings to have planning permission and, in particular, whether it will introduce a provision to have the same effect as Planning Policy Statement 22 on renewable energy policies.

ANSWERED BY MALCOLM CHISHOLM (19 DECEMBER 2006) The Executive is strongly committed to increasing energy from microrenewables such as rooftop wind turbines and solar panels and research was commissioned to consider the scope for extending permitted development rights to some micro-generation projects. The outcome of the research should be known by the end of the year and we will make progress as quickly as possible thereafter.

Draft Scottish Planning Policy 6: Renewable Energy confirms not only the Executive's support for local planning policies which incorporate microrenewables in new developments but also our intention to introduce a Scottish minimum standard. The views of the public have been sought on what this standard should be and responses are currently being considered. The intention is to issue a finalised Scottish Planning Policy document by the end of February 2007.

S2W-30403 - ALEX NEIL (06/12/06) To ask the Scottish Executive what its policy is for encouraging new homes to be carbon-neutral.

ANSWERED BY MALCOLM CHISHOLM (21/12/06) I have asked Dr. Paul Stollard, Chief Executive of the Scottish Building Standards Agency (SBSA), to answer. His response is as follows:

Revised building regulations that will come into effect in May 2007 include enhanced requirements for energy efficiency that will reduce carbon emissions from new dwellings by at least 40%, compared with 2002. Along with other significant measures, there will be a return to the highest levels of thermal insulation and the introduction of the best low-energy lighting in the UK. The SBSA is starting a review of the standards for 2009. We share the ambition of zero carbon and are commissioning research concerning further progress towards zero carbon dwellings.

S2W-30404 - ALEX NEIL (06/12/06) To ask the Scottish Executive what its policy is for encouraging existing homes to be carbon-neutral.

ANSWERED BY MALCOLM CHISHOLM (21/12/06) The Executive has a range of policies in place to improve the energy efficiency of homes in Scotland, tackling fuel poverty and contributing to the reduction of carbon emissions and the achievement of our climate change targets.

We are committed to bring all social rented houses up to the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) by 2015. The Standard includes the achievement of an energy efficiency rating of National Home Energy Rating (NHER) 5 or Standard Assessment Procedure 50 (SAP). All social landlords will be expected to show that they have adequate insulation and efficient central heating systems in their stock by this date.

Our fuel poverty programmes are also having a positive effect on the energy efficiency of Scottish homes. We estimate that in 2004-05 the central heating and warm deal programmes achieved a combined reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of 48,020 tonnes. The introduction of Energy Performance Certificates alongside the Single Survey will rate the energy performance of homes and include practical tips for simple cost-effective home improvement measures. We are working closely with the UK Government in relation to the Energy Efficiency Commitment which requires energy supply companies to meet targets for assisting householders to take up energy efficiency measures. The Executive also provides direct funding of around £5 million to the Energy Saving Trust to promote energy efficiency in homes.

Local authorities are required under the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) to devise strategies and targets to achieve significant improvements in the energy efficiency of their housing stock across all tenures. All local authorities are required to produce progress reports covering improvements in

energy efficiency and CO₂ reductions. In 2007, the Executive will review and assess progress being made by local authorities towards meeting these targets.

S2W-30496 - ROBIN HARPER (11/12/06) To ask the Scottish Executive whether there is any proposal in the Scottish Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 to remove the duty to avoid damaging any feature of historic or archaeological interest and to follow Scottish Ministers' guidance and, if so, what the reasons are for this proposal.

ANSWERED BY ROSS FINNIE (4 JANUARY 2006) The European Union's Rural Development Regulation stipulates that the requirements of cross-compliance and Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition apply to rural development payments for land-based measures approved under the new Scottish Rural Development Plan from 1 January 2007.

My officials are considering whether there is a need to supplement these requirements with existing Scottish conditionality relating to features of historic or archaeological interest.

EVENTS

MAKING PLANNING REFORM A REALITY – THE PLANNING ETC (SCOTLAND) ACT FEATURING THE LAUNCH OF HOLYROOD MAGAZINE'S PLANNING SUPPLEMENT 2007 - FRIDAY 9TH MARCH, 9.40AM-3PM, EDINBURGH

Keynote Speakers: Des McNulty MSP, Dan Macdonald, Macdonald estates, Stuart Housden, RSPB Scotland, Petra Biberback, Planning Aid Scotland.

Register Online at www.holyrood.com or tel: 0131 272 2130

TRAINING

ENGLISH HERITAGE PROFESSIONAL PLACEMENTS IN CONSERVATION (EPPIC)

An English Heritage, IFA, IHBC Initiative for Historic Environment Practitioners offering six one-year professional work placements providing work-based learning opportunities in the following specialisms: archaeological investigation x 2 based in Cambridge and Swindon; architectural investigation x 2 based in Cambridge and Swindon; aerial survey and investigation, based in York, architectural graphics, based in London. Placement holders will be paid £13,854 per annum, rising to £14,270 from 6 April 2007. Deadline for receipt of applications: 09/02/07. **For further information and to download an application pack, visit the IFA website at www.archaeologists.net or the IHBC web-site at www.ihbc.org.uk**

UNDERSTANDING SCOTTISH POLITICS - 16TH FEBRUARY 2007, EDINBURGH

A one day training course by Weber Shandwick Public Affairs.

For further information please e-mail: akenyon@webershandwick.com or tel: 0131 556 6649.

VACANCIES

HISTORIC SCOTLAND – NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Historic Scotland has decided to increase its number of Non-Executive Directors from 3 to 5 on its Management Board. **Details of the role of the Non-Executive Directors and how to apply are on the Historic Scotland web-site at:**

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/about/non_executive_directors

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 Communities and Local Government (DCLG); Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS); Department of Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA); National Assembly for Wales (NAW); Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS); Scottish Building Standards Agency (SBSA). 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 Fiona Binning: fbinning@befso.org.uk, 0131 556 5353.