

28 March 2019

Melissa Shields  
Scottish Government  
Planning & Architecture

By email only to: [SEA\\_Gateway@gov.scot](mailto:SEA_Gateway@gov.scot)

Dear Ms Shields

## **The Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2020 Environmental Report**

Thank you for your Environmental Report (ER) consultation submitted under the above Act in respect of the The Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2020. This was received by SEPA via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 25 January 2019.

We have used our scoping consultation response to consider the adequacy of the ER and this is used as the framework for detailed comments which can be found in Appendix 1. For convenience, these comments have been structured to reflect that of the ER. Please note, this response is in regard only to the adequacy and accuracy of the ER and any comments we may have on the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan Proposed Plan 2020 itself will be provided separately.

We note the next steps set out in the ER and will comment on the Adoption SEA statement once it has been sent to the Consultation Authorities via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on publication.

In the meantime, should you wish to discuss this environmental report consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01224 266636 or via our SEA Gateway at [sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk](mailto:sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

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*Disclaimer*

*This advice is given without prejudice to any decision made on elements of the proposal regulated by us, as such a decision may take into account factors not considered at the planning stage. We prefer all the technical information required for any SEPA consents to be submitted at the same time as the planning application. However, we consider it to be at the applicant's commercial risk if any significant changes required during the regulatory stage necessitate a further planning application and/or neighbour notification or advertising. We have relied on the accuracy and completeness of the information supplied to us in providing the above advice and can take no responsibility for incorrect data or interpretation, or omissions, in such information. If we have not referred to a particular issue in our response, it should not be assumed that there is no impact associated with that issue. If you did not specifically request advice on flood risk, then advice will not have been provided on this issue. Further information on our consultation arrangements generally can be found in [How and when to consult SEPA](#), and on flood risk specifically in the [SEPA-Planning Authority Protocol](#).*

## **Appendix 1: Comments on the Environmental Report (ER)**

### **General comments**

We provided comments on the initial ER for the Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan 2020 Main Issue Report and are pleased to note that most of our comments and recommendations have been acted incorporated into the revised ER and consequently the Proposed Plan.

Please note we have provided a separate response to the Proposed Plan (PCS/163474) where we have commented in more detail on the proposed policies and settlement statements.

### **Detailed comments**

#### **1. Relationship with other Plans, Policies and Strategies (PPS)**

1.1 As stated in our previous response, we consider all the PPS relevant to our interests as listed in Appendix 1 have been considered in the ER.

#### **2. Baseline information**

2.1 We previously welcomed the undertaking of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and reiterate we are satisfied that this has adequately informed the site assessment process and the mitigation measures put forward. Further detailed comments on specific site flood risk assessment can be found in our Proposed Plan response and should be taken forward to the Adopted Plan.

2.2 Appendix 2, page 147: With reference to agricultural embankments along the Spey, there are also embankments at Newtonmore and elsewhere along its length. We would welcome the rewording of this paragraph to highlight this.

2.3 Whilst the Appendix 1 of the ER refers to the current River Basin Management Plan for Scotland, Appendix 2, page 140, 3<sup>rd</sup> full paragraph has not been updated to take account of the [River Basin Management Plan 2015-2027](#). Recommended rewording:  
“The ultimate overall aim....and that **all the majority** of water bodies achieve at least ‘good’ status’ by ~~2015~~ 2027 ...”

#### **3. Environmental Problems**

3.1 As stated in our previous response, we consider this aspect of the ER to be satisfactorily dealt with.

#### **4. Environmental Assessment**

4.1 We welcome the reassessment of sites in respect to flood risk in Appendix 7 for the individual site assessments and the addition of more proposed mitigation measures. We have provided detailed comments on the those mitigation measures relevant to our interests that may be carried forward to the Adopted Plan settlement statements in our Proposed Plan response (PCS/163474).

#### **5. Mitigation Measures**

5.1 We have no further comments to make in this respect.

## **6. Monitoring Framework**

6.1 We welcome the inclusion of the peatland indicators in relation to Objective 4 Minimise contamination and safeguard and improve soil and peat quality.

## **7. Next Steps**

7.1 We have no further comments to make in this respect.