

Our Ref: SEA00071/scr/
SB

Graham Esson
Perth & Kinross Council
The Environment Service
Pullar House
35 Kinnoull Street
Perth
PH1 5GD

03 July 2006

By email: sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Graham

**Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Scotland) Regulations, 2004
Perth & Kinross Structure Plan Alteration No. 1- Indicative Forestry Strategy – Screening
Consultation**

I refer to your screening consultation submitted on 8th June 2006 via the Scottish Executive SEA Gateway in respect of the above plan.

In accordance with Section 14(3) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Scotland) Regulations 2004, SEPA has considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 1 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment.

Having reviewed the Screening Report, SEPA considers that the plan has the potential to have significant environmental effects. Please note, while SEPA considers that significant environmental effects may result from the plan, it is the responsibility of Perth and Kinross Council as the Responsible Authority to formally determine whether the plan qualifies for SEA under the Regulations. It is noted that the Council has indicated its view that SEA is required.

If it is formally determined that SEA is required, you will be aware that the next stage requires the Responsible Authority to consult the Consultation Authorities on the proposed scope and level of detail to be included within the Environmental Report. The Consultation Authorities typically expect to receive a concise Scoping Report at this stage. For further information about this stage and the sorts of information to include in a Scoping Report, please refer to the draft Information Note published jointly by the Consultation Authorities. This document is currently available at www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/consultation/closed/2006/sea/annex_b.pdf. This note also provides details of the information held by SEPA.

SEPA welcomes the submission of the screening report for the Perth & Kinross Structure Plan Alteration No. 1- Indicative Forestry Strategy on a voluntary basis. Overall, it is SEPA's view that this is a good quality screening report which provides the adequate level of detail and is clear, concise and well structured. SEPA would also consider helpful for a screening report to give an indicative timescale for undertaking the SEA.

Chairman
Sir Ken Collins

Chief Executive
Dr Campbell Gemmell

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Should you wish to discuss this screening consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0131 4497296 or via SEPA's SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk .

Yours sincerely

Sofia Billett
Senior Planning Officer (SEA)
Environmental Partnership Unit (South East)