

Our Ref: 8730
Your Ref: 01797

If emailing, mark FAO:
Lorna Maclean

By email only to: sea_gateway@gov.scot

5th May 2023

Dear Victoria Searle

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
Scoping report- Civil Aviation Authority – Airspace Change Masterplan

Thank you for your Scoping consultation submitted under the above Act in respect of the Airspace Change Masterplan. This was received by SEPA via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 27th March 2023.

As required under Section 15(2) of the Act, we have considered the document submitted and comment as follows in respect of the scope and level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report (ER). We are satisfied with the proposed scope and assessment methodology. The [Scottish Government SEA Guidance](#) provides guidance to Responsible Authorities about the type of information that is expected to be provided at each SEA stage; we have also produced [SEA topic guidance](#) for those issues which fall within our remit. We have used the guidance to inform our detailed scoping response which is attached as an appendix.

On completion, the Environmental Report and the plan to which it relates should be submitted to the Scottish Government SEA Gateway (SEA_Gateway@gov.scot) which will forward it to the Consultation Authorities.

In this case we will not be providing a detailed assessment of the Environmental Report.



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Should you wish to discuss this scoping consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me via our SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Lorna Maclean
Regional Principal Policy Officer
Planning Service

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Appendix

Section 2.19 Consultation Bodies

Section 2.19 refers to the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency it should be the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

Policy Relevant to the Environmental Aspects & Environmental problems

We consider that the environmental problems described generally highlight the main issues of relevance for the SEA topics within our remit.

It would however be useful if ch3 provided some more detail on the policy framework for local air quality in Scotland.

Cleaner Air for Scotland (CAFS) consolidates Scottish Government air quality policies into a single framework in order to protect and improve air quality and contains objectives including transport, health inequalities, climate change and natural environment. The UK National Air Quality Strategy sets out the local air quality regime and LAQM.PG(S) (23) re-iterates the importance of tackling air quality in a co-ordinated manner. Moreover, reducing emissions to tackle climate change, health and air quality is one of the three main objectives of Scotland's National Transport Strategy. Furthermore, one of the strategic outcomes of the National Planning Framework for Scotland is the importance of tackling air quality issues through reducing traffic emissions and advocating close co-operation between planning authorities and local air quality management regimes. SEPA was therefore satisfied to see that air quality is being considered by the CAA in relation to air transportation. However, we would prefer to see a stronger emphasis on the cumulative impact from private vehicle usage associated with airports and the provision of EV charging and public transport infrastructure to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality.

Alternatives

We note that alternatives are still being considered and only the preferred options will be subject to assessment. Any reasonable alternatives identified during the preparation of the plan should be assessed as part of the SEA process and the findings of the assessment should inform the choice of the preferred option. This should be documented in the Environmental Report.

Scoping in/out of environmental topics

We agree with the scope of the assessment and are satisfied with the proposed assessment methodology and SEA objectives. We welcome the inclusion of a narrative in the assessment matrix covering cumulative impacts, mitigation and enhancement measures.

Consultation period

It is not clear from the scoping report the specific time period proposed for consultation on the Environmental Report. Typical consultation periods range from 6-12 weeks depending on the content and nature of the plan.