

**Mclsaac C (Cathy)**

**From:** lesleymorrison@piltonpartnership.co.uk  
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**To:** Structural Funds Consultation Mailbox  
**Subject:** Consultation Response

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**Future European Structural Funds Programmes in Lowlands & Uplands Scotland 2007-2013****RESPONDENT INFORMATION DETAILS**

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**Questions and Answers**

Question 1: Are there any additional socio-economic factors to be considered – and which Structural Funds can address – in assessing the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of Lowlands & Uplands Scotland?

***Question 2: Do the proposed priorities for the 2007-2013 ERDF programme in Lowlands & Uplands Scotland address the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of the region?***

Question 3: Do the proposed priorities for the 2007-2013 ERDF programme in Lowlands & Uplands Scotland show appropriate coherence and concentration?

**Question 4: Do the proposed priorities for the 2007-2013 ESF programme in Lowlands & Uplands Scotland address the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of the region?**

Question 5: Do the proposed priorities for the 2007-2013 ESF programme in Lowlands & Uplands Scotland show appropriate coherence and concentration?

**Question 6: What are your views on the proposed balance of funding between priorities for the future ERDF programme in Lowlands & Uplands Scotland?**

Question 7: What are your views on the proposed balance of funding between priorities for the future ESF programme in Lowlands & Uplands Scotland?

**Question 8: Do the proposed priorities outlined in the draft Operational Programmes focus sufficiently on the right priorities in Scottish domestic policy?**

Question 9: What are your views on how the principle of environmental sustainability has been integrated into the Operational Programmes?

**Question 10: What are your views on how the principle of equal opportunities has been integrated into the Operational Programmes**

Question 11: What are your views on how the Operational Programmes will ensure complementarity between Structural Funds and other EU funding streams?

**Question 12: How can the challenge-fund approach be improved to make it more effective in delivering outcomes and more efficient in operation?**

A 2-tier application system, where the 1st stage is a summary of the proposed project before moving on to a more in-depth 2nd stage help voluntary organisations and IABs to assess demand quickly.

Question 13: What would be the most effective approach to using Community Planning Partnerships and other local partnerships for the delivery of elements of the programmes?

Don't feel that enough information was provided on how this would work - the devil is in the detail. Perception that this could entail additional layer (and costs) of administration. Also concern about the process of application approval under this system. However, projects need to fit with local priorities and strategic plans so necessary for co-ordination of activities.

**Question 14: What are your views on spatial targeting for community regeneration under ERDF Priority 2 and ESF Priority 1?**

Spatial targetting would be essential.

Question 15: What are your views on spatial targeting for rural development under ERDF Priority 3?

A general principle of more streamlined administration would be more efficient for everyone - currently the requirements can be extremely onerous for voluntary organisations to the extent of this being a key reason for not applying for funds. There is a general perception that small voluntary organisations could be left out of this process/dont' fit in - essential to ensure that those

***Question 16: Do you have any additional comments on the draft Structural Funds Operational Programmes for Lowlands & Uplands Scotland?***

doing important work are encouraged to continue to apply. The general principle of partnership working is fine, but there have been negative experiences in the North West Edinburgh area, where European funding has been used by employers for their own needs with little benefit to local people. There is also a fear that a lead partner could dominate a project to the detriment of smaller partners. Needs to be carefully set up and monitored. There should be an emphasis of QUALITY, SUSTAINABLE employment. Any (low paid) employment sometimes seen as route out of employment in itself. Lots of evidence about the dynamics of poverty, that it continues as people drop out of this type of work (low pay/no pay cycle). Low paid jobs do not necessarily lead as stepping stone to better paid work and can have a detrimental effect on mental health.

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