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for birds
for people
for ever

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Dear Sandra

Consultation Paper on Statutory Guidance on Planning and Sustainable Development

Thank you for consulting RSPB Scotland on the above document. We welcome the development of statutory guidance on sustainable development and our detailed comments are attached. I hope you find them of assistance in preparing the guidance.

Yours sincerely

Aedán Smith
Senior Conservation Planner

RESPONDEE INFORMATION FORM: *Draft Statutory Guidance on Planning and Sustainable Development*

Please complete the details below and return it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately. Thank you for your help.

Name: AEDAN SMITH

Postal Address: RSPB SCOTLAND HEADQUARTERS, 25 RAVELSTON TERRACE, EDINBURGH, EH4 3TP

1. Are you responding as: (please tick one box)
- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| (a) an individual | <input type="checkbox"/> | go to Q2a/b and then Q4 |
| (b) on behalf of a group or organisation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | go to Q3 and then Q4 |

INDIVIDUALS

- 2a. Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in the Scottish Executive library and/or on the Scottish Executive website)?

Yes (go to 2b below)
No, not at all We will treat your response as confidential

- 2b. Where *confidentiality is not requested*, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (please tick one of the following boxes)

Yes, make my response, name and address all available
Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address
Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS:

3. Your name and address of your organisation *will be* made available to the public (in the Scottish Executive library and/or on Scottish Executive website). Are you content for your response to be made available?

Yes
No We will treat your response as confidential

SHARING RESPONSES/FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

4. We will share your response internally with other Scottish Executive policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the Scottish Executive to contact you again in the future for consultation or research purposes?

Yes
No



RSPB Scotland response to Consultation Paper: Draft Statutory Guidance on Planning and Sustainable Development

June 2006

Background

RSPB Scotland welcomes the production of this statutory guidance on sustainable development. RSPB Scotland is supported by over 75,000 members and employs around 200 staff to promote the conservation of birds and biodiversity. We passionately believe that we all have a responsibility to protect birds and the environment. Bird populations reflect the health of the planet on which our future depends. Climate change, agricultural intensification, expansion of urban areas, new transport and energy infrastructure, and over-exploitation of our seas all pose major threats to birds. We therefore believe that there is an urgent need for sustainability to become central to decision making.

RSPB Scotland's work covers a wide range of issues including planning, climate change, energy, marine issues, water, trade and agriculture. We also have practical experience of managing land and coast for conservation, farming, forestry and other enterprises. As well as commenting on national planning policy issues, our professional planning and conservation staff are regularly involved in the development of national planning policy and development plans. We also comment on several hundred planning applications annually. In combination with RSPB staff across the UK, and our international partners in Birdlife International, we have cross-cutting expertise and experience of planning and sustainability issues within Scotland, the UK and internationally.

The Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 introduced statutory duties for planning authorities to exercise their development planning functions with the objective of contributing to sustainable development. It also introduced a similar duty for Scottish Ministers with respect to their functions of preparing and revising the National Planning Framework. The Act gives statutory status to any guidance issued by Scottish Ministers relating to these duties. RSPB Scotland welcomes the introduction of this statutory sustainable development duty.

