

Development Management Consultation
Planning Directorate
Scottish Government
2H, Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ
18th March 2008

Dear Sir

Development Management Consultation Paper: Processing Agreements

We act for Morston Assets Limited who have land interests within Scotland and therefore welcome the opportunity to make representations in response to your 'Development Management Consultation Paper'.

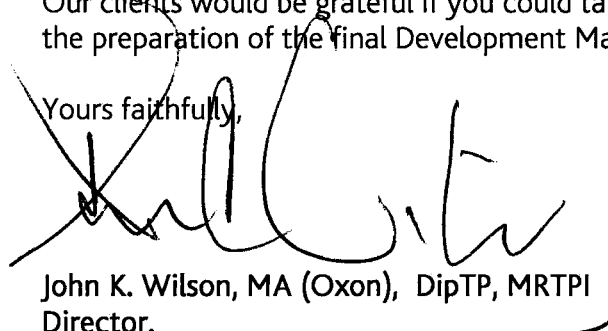
We wish to make the following comments on Chapter 3 Processing Agreements. We very much welcome, and strongly support, efforts to address the specific needs of national and major development proposals. We believe that the introduction of Processing Agreements will address the need for major applications to have an individual programme of agreed working between the applicant and the planning authority to guide the application smoothly through the planning process, from informal discussions through to an eventual decision.

We support the intention to introduce Processing Agreements on a voluntary rather than compulsory basis. Only where it is clearly apparent to both sides that entering into a formal agreement will improve the planning application process, by removing potential pitfalls of 'moveable' timescales and additional unexpected requirements for information, would it be appropriate for a Processing Agreement be entered into.

We welcome the intention that unreasonable non-compliance with the Processing Agreement should result in the return of application fees, to be considered through the review of the Fees Regulations. However, we believe consideration should be given to a sliding scale of further penalties to be imposed on planning authorities if unreasonable behaviour continues.

Our clients would be grateful if you could take the above comments into account in the preparation of the final Development Management Document.

Yours faithfully,



John K. Wilson, MA (Oxon), DipTP, MRTPI
Director.

cc. Mr Jim Mackinnon