

Dear Mr Brown

Consultation on a proposed Marine Reserve in Lamlash Bay

I am contacting you to formally respond to the consultation on a proposed marine reserve for Lamlash Bay, Isle of Arran. Please accept the following information as my formal response to the consultation.

Question 1: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to establish a Marine Reserve in Lamlash Bay?

Answer 1: I very much agree with, and support, the proposal to establish a Marine Reserve in Lamlash Bay.

Question 2: Do you think there would be any a) positive and b) negative implications should the reserve be established in Lamlash Bay?

Answer 2: I think there would be many positive implications should the reserve be established in Lamlash Bay. The main of these would be:

- a. to give the local marine environment in the area, and the many species of flora and fauna that rely upon it, an opportunity to recover and regenerate after many years of damage and over-exploitation
- b. the benefit to the local community through increased use of the area for educational and recreational uses by both visitors and the local community itself
- c. the opportunity to monitor the area, to allow greater understanding of the positive effects of Marine Reserves, and to allow others to learn from it

Question 3: Are there any other points which you would like to make in relation to the proposed Lamlash Bay Marine Reserve?

Answer 3: I strongly feel that the proposed Lamlash Bay Marine Reserve should go ahead, and that it should receive support from the Scottish Government and relevant Local Authority. The proposed Marine Protected Area and No Take Zone should be the minimum proposed for the area, and these should be expanded and made permanent, with Lamlash Bay remaining out of bounds to all mobile gear fisheries for good. I also feel that the Marine Protected Area and No Take Zone should be used as a model for elsewhere in Scotland, where other coastal communities should be encouraged to take forward similar proposals with Scottish Government support.