

**Subject:** Draft Scottish marine litter strategy consultation

Dear Ms Milne

I am writing to respond to the Scottish Government's consultation on a draft Scottish marine litter strategy. **I walk the beach every day and am ashamed at the non-biodegradable waste I see**, it may not originate here but we have long coastlines, so we have responsibility for the problems that come with them. I wish to see a marine litter strategy introduced in Scotland and one that is cohesively linked to national litter strategy.

Question 26: Option 3 would best deliver a marine litter strategy. If a strategy is to make a real difference to this problem the Scottish Government must accept that money will have to be spent. Funding, staff and resources will have to be provided to make the strategy work effectively, and this will only be done through Option 3.

Elements for Option 3 should include: a lead authority identified and funding provided for a dedicated policy officer; funding for high profile campaigns that would have a direct impact on reducing litter from source, e.g. Bag it and Bin it; Scotland-wide co-ordinated campaigns, rather than the many and varied localised campaigns that exist at the moment; baseline data will be essential to monitoring future progress of the strategy, and a Government-led data collection strategy would be required. Successfully tackling our marine litter problem through a strategy would demonstrate best practise and show what was possible to the UK and other EU countries, and influence further action.

Questions 7-9: the marine litter strategy and the national litter strategy must link together to ensure no gaps in responsibility or action.

Questions 10-13: I understand that Marine Conservation Society (whom I know through my work in the fish industry) has identified a possible error in the consultation document with regard to Strategic Direction 2. I agree with MCS' assertion that all the Existing Actions listed under Strategic Direction 2 (p17) should in fact be listed under Possible Actions. When such a correction has been made, the actions should then be considered important enough to be put in place.

Questions 14-17: Similarly, I agree that under Strategic Direction 3, points 2 and 3 in the list of Existing Actions (p18) should also in fact be listed under Possible Actions. Again, when such a correction has been made, these actions should then be considered important enough to be put in place.

Yours sincerely

Lucy Blow