

Scottish Executive – EclA Guidelines Comments

I do not have a lot of comments. As a planner I leave the specifics of ecological assessment to the experts. The authors may find it helpful to see our Planning Advice Note if they have not done so already. I have given a link below. A key point of our advice is that project design and work on the environmental issues should progress together so that the design can respond to the issues and have built in mitigation. I may have missed it but I don't think the Guidelines covered this.

Generally

I suggest a bit more explanation of why an EclA would be undertaken separately to an EIA.

Generally it needs proofing for Scottish legislation and policy but I have mentioned all the specifics I can below. Scotland has its own planning legislation, policy, advice and Circulars.

Details

Box 1. You should add a reference to the Scottish Advice. See <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/1999/10/pan58-root/pan58> Circular 15/1999 is also relevant.

1.16. It's not clear that these would work at the strategic scale. Are the Guidelines meant to apply at the strategic scale? SEA would seem more appropriate.

References to the Regulations (e.g. 2.9) should be generalised as there are separate EIA regulations for Scotland and England for projects needing planning permission, as well as those linked to other authorisation procedures, some of which are UK wide.

2.29. Add a reference to the Scottish Executive's website Planning home Page <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Planning-Building/Planning>

3.8 – 3.14. Development plans (structure and local plans in Scotland) are good sources of designated areas. The Scottish National designations are listed in National Planning Policy Guideline 14 at paragraph 23 – 45. see <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/1999/01/nppg14> The 2 national Parks mentioned in para 33 have been designated.

Local ones are dealt with in Planning a/advice Note 60. <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2000/08/pan60-root/pan60>

6.5 Ditto Scottish Exec web site.

6.16. Now Section 75 Agreements in Scotland.

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