

SEA Practitioners Survey - In-House

1. Default Section

Practitioners Survey – In-House

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in providing us with your views as an SEA practitioner in Scotland. This survey is aimed at those who have undertaken (ie authored) SEAs in Responsible Authorities. This survey asks very detailed questions about your experiences in undertaking SEA, including questions on all stages of the process. It also asks more general questions aimed at securing your perceptions and experiences of SEA as practiced in Scotland. If this survey does not reflect your circumstances, then please press back and choose one of the others that may be more suitable.

Instructions for Completing this Survey

The survey is self explanatory and in many cases offers choices from drop down menus or to tick a box. There are also lots of opportunities to provide free text to explain your views where necessary (up to 500 characters). There are however some brief instructions which we would be grateful if you could follow:

- Please complete this survey from your experiences as an individual, not from your organisation. We want your honest views as a practitioner. Please note that all responses will be anonymised and no individual respondent or plan/SEA that they provide views upon will be identified
- In the first two parts of the survey we need you to answer based on your experiences with one nominated plan. This will allow us to identify whether there are any trends with respect to different types of plan. We do however recognise that you may have been involved in a number of SEAs. We would ask you to choose an example where there were interesting issues or where the process went particularly well or was particularly problematic. The more general questions in parts 3 and 4 provide opportunities for you to raise other examples of issues from other SEAs. Accordingly, part 1 asks you to identify a nominated plan which should be one that you have been closely involved with and which has progressed at least to Environmental Report stage.
- For this work we are looking for Scottish experience only on plans and programmes that qualify for SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 or the previous 2004 regulations.
- The survey is broken down into five parts. At the end of each part you may save and return later. The progress bar at the top of the screen will tell you how far you have progressed. Depending on the amount of information you are able to provide, it should take approximately 60 minutes to complete. The five parts are:

PART 1 – Basic information about you and the plan subject to SEA

PART 2 – Your experiences

- a)Stakeholder involvement
- b)Consultation Authority liaison
- c)The SEA process
- d)SEA Guidance
- e)Influence over decision making
- f)Integration with Habitats Regulations Assessment

PART 3 – Opportunities for improvement

PART 4 – Overall perception of SEA in Scotland

PART 5 – Next Steps

2. PART 1 – BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE SEA

In this part, we are looking for some basic details about the SEA that you were commissioned to undertake. This will help us to understand if there are any correlations between types of organisation, types of plans and how effective the SEA was found to be.

IMPORTANT –We need you to answer Parts 1 and 2 based on your experiences with one nominated SEA. We

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recognise that you may have been involved in a number of SEAs, but we need to be able to secure views on specific cases that we will also review documentation for. Accordingly, please identify a plan/SEA that you have been most closely involved with and which has progressed at least to Environmental Report stage.

*** 1. Please provide the name of the plan which you have nominated to answer Parts 1 – 2 (see note above)**

*** 2. which one of the following sectors does the plan cover**

Other

*** 3. When was most of the SEA work undertaken for this plan?**

*** 4. Which one of the following groups describes the organisation(s) responsible for preparing the plan and undertaking the SEA?**

Other

5. How would you describe the experience of the lead contributor to the SEA?

- Very experienced, having undertaken several SEAs before
- Some experience, having undertaken at least one SEA previously;
- Some experience in SEA process, but limited
- No/little experience – this was the first time

6. How would you describe the role of the lead contributor to the SEA in the organisation (tick one only)

- Designated SEA Officer – senior level
- Designated SEA Officer – junior level
- Senior Manager / Head of Department
- Environmental policy officer senior level
- Environmental policy officer junior level
- Subject specific (eg air quality) officer senior level
- Subject specific (eg air quality) officer junior level
- Other (please specify)

Other

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7. Approximately how much did it cost to undertake the SEA? You may answer in either pounds or resources. All data will remain confidential and non-attributable

If answering in ££

In answering in Person Days

Cost

actual cost if able to provide

3. PART 2(A) - The SEA PROCESS - SCREENING

This section seeks your views on how the process of SEA worked for your nominated plan SEA. This will help us to understand what parts of the SEA process are working well and those which are working less well and where efficiency improvements may need to be made. This page looks at the screening stage. If you did not screen, then move to the next page.

1. Can you please provide a view on the following statements regarding your Screening process.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Indifferent	Disagree	Strongly disagree
a) The screening report was easy to prepare using the templates provided by Scottish Government	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) Generally, it was straight forward to determine whether the plan was likely to have significant environmental effects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) The screening stage helped me to focus the subsequent SEA on the key issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) The CAs screening response was helpful	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. If you answered "Strongly Disagree" or "Disagree" in response to any of the questions above, it would be helpful if you could explain here why you think this was the case.

3. Beyond your nominated plan, do you have any examples of where identifying significant effects at the screening stage worked particularly well? Please provide brief details.

Please note: in Part 4 we will give you the opportunity to suggest any improvements to the screening process.

4. PART 2(A). THE SEA PROCESS - BASELINE DATA

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This section seeks your views on how the process of SEA worked for your nominated plan SEA. This will help us to understand what parts of the SEA process are working well and those which are working less well and where efficiency improvements may need to be made. This page looks at collecting and using baseline data

*** 1. Can you please provide a view on the following statements?**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Indifferent	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a) Generally it was easy to gather baseline information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) It was easy to establish what data would be useful for the Environmental Report	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) It was easy to establish what level of detail of information was required for the Environmental Report	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. If you answered “Strongly Disagree” or “Disagree” for any of the questions above, it would be helpful if you could provide further details of why you hold this view?

*** 3. How easy would you say it was to secure baseline information for each SEA topic? Please provide a view for each.**

	Very easy to find	Easy to find	indifferent	Not easy	Not easy at all
Biodiversity (incl Flora & Fauna)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Population	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Human Health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Soil	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Air	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cultural Heritage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Material Assets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climatic Factors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Landscape	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. If you answered “Not easy at all” or “Not easy” for any of the topics above, it would be helpful if you could provide further details of datasets that were hard to obtain.

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* 5. How easy was it to obtain baseline data from the Consultation Authorities? Please answer for each:

	Very easy to find	Easy to find	Indifferent	Not easy	Not easy at all
SEPA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SNH	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historic Scotland	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 6. To what extent was the baseline data in a format that was easy to use? Please answer for each:

	Very easy to find	Easy to find	Indifferent	Not easy	Not easy at all
SEPA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SNH	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historic Scotland	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. Did you use any other tools developed by the Responsible Authority to assist with your baseline data collection (eg State of the Environment Reports). Please provide brief details.

- Yes
 No

If yes, please provide details.

Please note: in Part 4 we will give you the opportunity to suggest any improvements to the process of collating information for the environmental baseline.

5. PART 2(A). THE SEA PROCESS - SCOPING

This section seeks your views on how the process of SEA worked for your nominated plan SEA. This will help us to understand what parts of the SEA process are working well and those which are working less well and where efficiency improvements may need to be made. This page looks at the scoping stage.

1. Did you scope any SEA topics out of your assessment?

- Yes
 No

2. If yes, what were they? (tick all those that apply)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity, flora and fauna; | <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Climatic Factors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population | <input type="checkbox"/> Air | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human health | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Heritage | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil | <input type="checkbox"/> Material Assets | |

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3. If yes, what were the main reasons for scoping these topics out? (3 max)

- Determined that plan will have no effects on these topics
- Determined that plan may have some effects, but these were not considered to be significant
- Following advice from Consultation Authorities
- Following representations from other stakeholders
- Responsible Authorities with similar plans had done this
- Benchmarking research indicated other
- used Scottish Government / other external guidance
- used internal Responsible Authority guidance
- Other (please specify)

Other (please specify)

4. If no, what were the main reasons for scoping in all of the SEA topics? (tick all those that apply)

- Determined that plan will have significant effects on all topics
- Following advice from Consultation Authorities
- Following representations from other stakeholders
- All scoped in as initial findings unclear
- All scoped in as following a precautionary approach
- All scoped in due to perceived danger of legal challenge
- Following advice in Scottish Government / other external guidance
- Following advice in internal Responsible Authority guidance
- Other (please specify)

Other (please specify)

* 5. Can you please provide a view on the following statements regarding your Scoping Report:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Indifferent	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a) The Scoping Report provided a good basis upon which to prepare the Environmental Report	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) It was easy to establish the level of detail required for the assessment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) The Consultation Authorities scoping response was helpful	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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6. Do you have any examples of where aspects of the scoping process worked particularly well? Please provide brief details.

7. Did you prepare a revised Scoping Report following consultation with the Consultation Authorities?

- Yes
- No

Please note: in Part 4 we will give you the opportunity to suggest any improvements to the scoping process.

6. PART 2(A). THE SEA PROCESS - ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

This section seeks your views on how the process of SEA worked for your nominated plan SEA. This will help us to understand what parts of the SEA process are working well and those which are working less well and where efficiency improvements may need to be made. This page looks at the Environmental Report stage

*** 1. Can you please provide a view on the following statements regarding your Environmental Report:**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Indifferent	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a) Identifying existing environmental problems was straightforward	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) It was easy to gather information about other relevant plans and programmes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) Identifying the significant effects was straightforward	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) Alternatives were easy to identify and assess	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e) Identifying cumulative and other effects was straightforward	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f) It was easy to focus the Environmental Report just on the significant environmental effects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g) Identifying ways to prevent, reduce or offset adverse effects (ie mitigation measures) was straightforward	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h) The process of preparing the Environmental Report was proportionate to the influence it had on the plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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2. If you answered "Strongly Disagree" or "Disagree" to any of the questions above, it would be helpful if you could briefly explain why.

3. Beyond your nominated plan, do you have any examples of where aspects of the Environmental Report preparation process worked particularly well? Please provide brief details.

Please note: in Part 4 we will give you the opportunity to suggest any improvements to the process of preparing Environmental Reports.

7. PART 2(A). THE SEA PROCESS - CONSIDERING SEA TOPICS

This section seeks your views on how the process of SEA worked for your nominated plan SEA. This will help us to understand what parts of the SEA process are working well and those which are working less well and where efficiency improvements may need to be made. This page looks at how you considered the SEA topics.

*** 1. With respect to each of the SEA topics, could you please provide a view on the following:**

	Identifying the significant environmental effects arising from my plan on this topic was straightforward	Considering cumulative and other impacts in relation to this topic was straightforward
Biodiversity (incl Fauna and Flora)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Population	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Human Health	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Soil	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Water	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Air	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Cultural Heritage	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Material Assets	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Climatic Factors	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Landscape	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

2. If you answered "Strongly Disagree" or "Disagree" for any of the questions above, it would be helpful if you could explain here why you think this was the case

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3. Do you have any examples of where consideration of particular SEA topics has worked well? Please provide brief details.

8. PART 2(A). THE SEA PROCESS - POST ADOPTION

This section seeks your views on how the process of SEA worked for your nominated plan SEA. This will help us to understand what parts of the SEA process are working well and those which are working less well and where efficiency improvements may need to be made. This page looks at the post adoption stage. If you have not reached the post-adoption stage on your nominated plan, please go to the next section.

1. Can you please provide a view on the following statements regarding post adoption processes:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Indifferent	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a) It was easy to identify monitoring indicators for the plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) Preparing the post adoption statement was straightforward	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) A clear roadmap for implementing the mitigation measures was set out and will be followed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. If you answered “Strongly Disagree” or “Disagree” for any of the questions above, it would be helpful if you could explain here why you think this was the case.

3. Do you have any examples of where identifying mitigation or monitoring has worked well? Please provide brief details.

9. PART 2(A). THE SEA PROCESS - GENERAL POINTS

This section seeks your views on how the process of SEA worked for your nominated plan SEA. This will help us to understand what parts of the SEA process are working well and those which are working less well and where efficiency improvements may need to be made. This page looks at some general points.

1. What were the key lessons learned from your SEA process ?

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2. On a scale of 1 to 5, in your view to what extent did you have the resources to undertake SEA effectively?

- 1 - Significantly fewer resources than needed
- 2 - Fewer resources than needed
- 3 - Unsure
- 4 - Some resources
- 5 - Adequate resources

3. On a scale of 1 to 5, in your view, were the time and resources for undertaking the SEA proportionate to the benefits and outcomes?

- 1 - Costs significantly outweighed the benefits
- 2 - Costs outweighed the benefits
- 3 - Costs and benefits about the same
- 4 - Benefits outweighed the costs
- 5 - Benefits significantly outweighed the costs

10. PART 2(B). STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

This section seeks your views on how stakeholders were engaged in your nominated plan SEA. This is to help us understand what stakeholders were involved and how effective that engagement was.

1. Were any stakeholders (over and above the statutory Consultation Authorities) directly involved in the assessment? Please tick those that apply

- Internal stakeholders (eg other Council depts.)
- Other public bodies
- Scottish Government
- Community groups
- NGOs
- Business groups
- Others (please specify)

Other

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2. Did you provide any training / awareness raising for stakeholders on SEA and its role in the preparation of this plan?

- Yes, a programme of training /events were provided;
- Yes, some awareness raising was provided (eg background papers)
- No training or awareness raising was provided

3. Was the scoping report made available to other stakeholders beyond the Consultation Authorities?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

4. Can you indicate what measures you have taken to encourage public involvement in the Scoping / Environmental Report consultations? (tick all that apply)

- Statutory minimum only
- Documents on website
- Roadshows in local communities
- Workshops with stakeholders / public
- Newsletter
- Extending the scoping consultation to include wider stakeholders / public
- Other (please specify)

Other

5. Approximately how many responses to the Environmental Report consultation did you receive

- Consultation Authorities only
- Consultation Authorities and up to 5 others
- Consultation Authorities and up to 10 others
- Consultation Authorities and up to 20 others
- Consultation Authorities and more than 20

6. Generally, how would you describe the influence of comments on the scoping report/Environmental Report that you received from stakeholders?

	Very significant influence	Significant influence	Indifferent	Did not influence	Did not influence at all
Influence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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7. What would you suggest are the main barriers to engagement with stakeholders and the public?

8. Do you have any examples of where stakeholder engagement in SEA has worked particularly well? Please provide basic details

11. PART 2(C). CONSULTATION AUTHORITY LIAISON

This section seeks your views on the role of the Consultation Authorities (SEPA, SNH and Historic Scotland) in your nominated plan SEA. This is to help us understand how the process of consultation works, the quality of the service provided by the consultation authorities and to help identify areas where this could be enhanced.

*** 1. How effective was the Scottish Government SEA Gateway as a way to consult the Consultation Authorities?**

	Very effective	Effective	Indifferent	Not effective	Not effective at all
Effectiveness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*** 2. Overall, how would you rate the usefulness of the responses you received from the Consultation Authority – please answer for each:**

	Very useful	Useful	Indifferent	Not useful	Not useful at all
SEPA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SNH	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historic Scotland	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. If you answered “Not useful at all” or “Not useful” for any of the questions above, it would be helpful if you could provide further details of why you hold this view?

4. How clear was the response (eg were the issues raised clear, easy to understand and address?). Please answer for each:

	Very clear	Clear	Indifferent	Not clear	Not clear at all
SEPA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SNH	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historic Scotland	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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5. To what extent did the Consultation Authorities responses help you to scope in or out environmental topics? Please answer for each:

	Influenced a great deal	Influenced	Indifferent	Did not influence	Did not influence at all
SEPA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SNH	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historic Scotland	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Generally, to what extent did the Consultation Authority SEA responses assist in preparation of the plan itself? Please answer for each:

	Influenced a great deal	Influenced	Indifferent	Did not influence much	Did not influence at all
SEPA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SNH	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historic Scotland	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. Did you find any of the Consultation Authorities responses unreasonable (eg difficult to implement, not relevant to the plan in question)? Please answer for

	Yes	No
SEPA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SNH	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historic Scotland	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

details

8. Over and above the written responses, did you meet with the Consultation Authorities during your SEA or contact them in other ways?

	Yes	No
Meeting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Email	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Phone	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. If yes, how useful were these contacts in helping you complete the SEA? Please answer for each:

	Very useful	Useful	Indifferent	Not useful	Not useful at all
SEPA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SNH	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historic Scotland	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. Do you have any examples of where CA engagement has worked particularly well? Please provide basic details

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12. PART 2 (D). SEA GUIDANCE

This section seeks your views on SEA guidance that you used in your nominated plan SEA. It seeks to establish what guidance was used and how useful it was.

* 1. What guidance did you refer to during your SEA process?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scottish Government SEA Toolkit | <input type="checkbox"/> SNIFFER guidance on air, water and soil (www.seaguidance.org.uk) | <input type="checkbox"/> Internal guidance developed by the Responsible Authority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scottish Government Introduction to SEA | <input type="checkbox"/> UK Practical Guide to SEA | <input type="checkbox"/> Did not use guidance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scottish Government PAN on SEA and Development Plans | <input type="checkbox"/> English topic guidance | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scottish Government climate change and SEA guidance | <input type="checkbox"/> Welsh topic guidance | |

Other

2. To what extent was the guidance that you referred to helpful when undertaking your SEA? (please answer for those that you used)

	Very helpful	Helpful	Indifferent	Not helpful	Not very helpful
Scottish Government SEA Toolkit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scottish Government Introduction to SEA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scottish Government PAN on SEA and Development Plans	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scottish Government climate change guidance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SNIFFER guidance on air, water and soil (www.seaguidance.org.uk)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
UK Practical Guide to SEA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
English topic guidance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Welsh topic guidance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internal guidance developed by the Responsible Authority	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. Was there a particular issue that you had to resolve for which there was little or no guidance ?

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* 2. Can you please provide a view on the following statements regarding the influence of SEA over decision making on the Plan

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Indifferent	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a) The SEA resulted in direct, significant and clearly demonstrable improvements to the plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) The SEA identified mitigation or enhancement measures which will provide significant environmental protection over and above what the plan would have delivered anyway	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) The SEA made new information available to plan-makers and decision takers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) The SEA enhanced the environmental performance of the plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e) The SEA made you consider issues that you would not normally have done in preparing the plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f) The SEA enabled all the reasonable alternatives to be fully considered	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g) The SEA enabled consultation on plan options that would not have been consulted on otherwise	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h) The SEA ensured that more environmentally sustainable options were taken forward instead	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i) The SEA promoted more evidence based policy-making	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j) The SEA promoted greater integration of different departments across the organisation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k) The SEA improved transparency and accountability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. If you answered “Strongly Disagree” or “Disagree” for any of the questions above, it would be helpful if you could explain here why you think this was the case

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4. What had the most influence on the preparation of the plan (please tick up to five) and, in the space briefly explain why.

- The SEA Scoping Report
- The SEA Environmental Report
- The Consultation Authorities written responses on the Environmental report
- The Consultation Authorities written response on the plan
- Meetings/liaison with Consultation Authorities
- Stakeholder representations on SEA
- Stakeholder representations on plan
- Meetings/liaison with stakeholders
- Political influence
- Single Outcome Agreements
- Driven by commitments in other related Responsible Authority plans and programmes
- Driven by Responsible Authority's socio-economic objectives
- Scottish Government policy
- Other (please specify)

Other

5. What had the most influence on the preparation of the SEA Environmental Report (please tick top three) and, in the space briefly explain why.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The SEA Scoping Report | <input type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder representations on the SEA | <input type="checkbox"/> Commitments in other related plans and programmes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Consultation Authorities written responses | <input type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder representations on the plan | <input type="checkbox"/> SEAs of other plans and programmes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meetings/liaison with Consultation Authorities | <input type="checkbox"/> Political influences | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |

Other

14. F. INTEGRATION WITH HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

Some plans, in addition to SEA, also require an assessment under the Habitats Regulations (the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations 1994 as amended), including the "appropriate assessment" of the impacts on any Natura interests. This section seeks some basic information about whether this was the case for your nominated plan SEA and, if so, how well this worked. This will help us to consider the interaction of assessment under the Habitats

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Regulations with SEA.

1. Did your nominated plan require an assessment under the Habitats Regulations

- Yes
- No - if no, go to next section

2. If yes, did you integrate this assessment with your SEA ?

- Yes - If yes go to question 4
- No - if no go to next question

3. If no, what were the reasons for not integrating Appropriate Assessment and SEA?

4. If yes, please list what the benefits were that you think resulted

5. If yes, please list any drawbacks you experienced

15. PART 3 – OVERALL PERCEPTION OF SEA IN SCOTLAND

This part of the questionnaire seeks to get your views generally on SEA practice in Scotland. We do not need your views in relation to a nominated plan SEA for this section, we are looking for your general thoughts on SEA.

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* 1. Please provide your view on the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Indifferent	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a) SEA is an effective use of time and resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) SEA allows decision making to be much more transparent	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) SEA is only worthwhile if it changes the plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) SEA is generally proportionate to the environmental impacts that may result from the plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e) SEA is most effective if it is carried out in house	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f) We expect to have available in house resources to deliver SEA over the next 5 years	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g) SEA is most effective if it is carried out by consultants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h) We need to use consultants to undertake SEA as a result of insufficient resources in-house	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i) The skills and experience learned from individual SEAs have been transferred to other parts of my organisation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j) Future SEAs will be easier to undertake as a result of lessons learned from previous SEAs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k) The content of the plan is very different from how it would have been without the SEA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l) SEA in the long term will transform planning practices to support more sustainable development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
m) SEA does not delay preparation and implementation of the plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
n) SEA allows for effective public/stakeholder participation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
o) SEA makes relevant environment information available to decision-makers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
p) SEA outputs are understandable and accessible to stakeholders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
q) SEA outputs are understandable and	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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accessible to the public

2. If you answered “Strongly Disagree” or “Disagree” for any of the questions above, it would be helpful if you could explain here why you think this was the case.

*** 3. If you could identify one single most important contribution of SEA, what would it be?**

*** 4. If you could identify one single most frustrating aspect of SEA, what would it be?**

5. What do you think are the strengths of current SEA practice in Scotland? (4 max)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clearly defined requirements provided by legislation | <input type="checkbox"/> Improved transparency of decision making | <input type="checkbox"/> Understanding cumulative and other impacts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robust procedures and processes | <input type="checkbox"/> Improved stakeholder involvement in plan-making | <input type="checkbox"/> Requirement to monitor environmental impacts of a plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clear and easy to access guidance | <input type="checkbox"/> Improved public involvement in plan-making | <input type="checkbox"/> Flexibility of approach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Well developed methods of assessment | <input type="checkbox"/> Effective mitigation of environmental effects | <input type="checkbox"/> Wider application of SEA in Scotland to cover more plans and programmes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Well developed consultation process and advice received | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental enhancement to plan content | <input type="checkbox"/> The fact that SEA also covers “positive” plans and programmes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrable influence over plans and programmes | <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to compare alternatives | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please define) |

Other

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6. What do you think are the weaknesses of current SEA practice in Scotland?(4 max)

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Requirements of legislation unclear | <input type="checkbox"/> Limited influence over plan content / decision making | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of SEA documents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poorly defined processes and procedures | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of buy in from senior managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Inflexible |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of Guidance | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor stakeholder engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> Time consuming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poorly understood assessment methods | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor public engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consultation process too complicated | <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate consideration of alternatives | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please define) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consultation process too time consuming | <input type="checkbox"/> Subjectivity / lack of scientific rigour | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consultation process too restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> Skills and training | |

Other

7. If you have any further points about the effectiveness of SEA in Scotland that you would like to make and which you have not raised elsewhere in this survey, then please provide brief details here

Please note: in Part 4 we will give you the opportunity to suggest any improvements to guidance.

16. PART 4 – HOW CAN WE DELIVER IMPROVEMENTS

This section seeks to get your views generally on how the process of SEA could be improved. We do not need your views in relation to a nominated plan SEA for this section, we are looking for your general thoughts on how the process of SEA could be enhanced. Much of this section allows free text answers and we welcome your views.

To help with structure, we have made some suggested areas for comment. You are welcome to use these and / or the general comments box at the bottom of this section. For ease of analysing views, please keep your text as concise as possible. There is more space for expanding your views in the last question.

1. Do you have any suggestions for improvements to the Screening stage?

2. Do you have any suggestions for improvements to the Scoping stage?

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3. Do you have any suggestions for improvements to collation of baseline information/data?

4. Do you have any suggestions for improvements to the process of identifying significant environmental effects?

5. Do you have any suggestions for improving the assessment of alternatives?

6. Do you have any suggestions for improving the identification of mitigation measures?

7. Do you have any suggestions for improving the service offered by the Consultation Authorities?

8. Do you have any suggestions changes to the SEA legislation that would enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of SEA?

9. Do you have any suggestions for improving stakeholder / public engagement in SEA?

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10. Do you have any suggestions for improving the way SEA influences plan making?

11. Do you think that there are any areas of duplication in the SEA process and do you have any suggestions about how they can be avoided?

12. Do you have any suggestions for improvements to guidance?

13. Do you have any suggestions for improving the proportionality of SEA?

14. What do you think are the biggest barriers to achieving proportionality in SEA?

15. General comments – please insert here any general comments about improvements you feel should be made to enhance the effectiveness of SEA. (note text in this box is not limited).

17. PART 5 – THANK YOU AND NEXT STEPS

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Thank you for your time and interest in this review. Your views will be taken into account and included within the review findings. While all of the information we collect will be anonymised, we are looking to follow up this questionnaire with some more detailed interviews. Accordingly, if you are happy to be interviewed as part of this follow up work, we would like to take some basic details from you so that we may contact you.

Many thanks for your assistance.

1. As part of this review, some follow up interviews will be conducted. Would you be happy to be interviewed ?

- Yes
- No

2. If yes, please provide us with the following contact details

Name	<input type="text"/>
Organisation	<input type="text"/>
Email address	<input type="text"/>
Telephone number	<input type="text"/>