

# SEA Review - PLAN OWNER / DECISION MAKER QUESTIONNAIRE

## PLAN OWNER / DECISION MAKER QUESTIONNAIRE

### Introduction

Thank you for your interest in providing us with your views on SEA in Scotland. This survey is aimed at those who are largely responsible for the preparation of plans, programmes and strategies for which an SEA is required, but who did not actively undertake the SEA. This may include policy leads, senior members of Responsible Authorities who have signed off the plan, Elected Representatives etc. This survey asks questions about how the SEA process and outputs influenced your plan preparation process or the decisions that you took on what the plan should contain. It also asks more general questions aimed at securing your perceptions and experiences of SEA as practiced in Scotland.

### 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 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 of how you think SEA has helped you to prepare or make decisions on your plan. Please note that all responses will be anonymised and no individual respondent or plan/SEA that they provide views upon will be identified.
- 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 four parts. At the end of each part you may save and return later. To save and return later, please click on "exit this survey". The progress bar at the top of the screen will tell you how far you have progressed. It should take around 20 minutes to complete. The four parts are:

Part 1 - Basic Information

Part 2 - Influence of SEA over decision-making - Your Experiences

Part 3 - How can we deliver improvements?

Part 4 - Overall perception of SEA in Scotland

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## PART 1 – BASIC INFORMATION

Notes

In this part, we are looking for some basic details about you, your plan and your organisation. 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 to Parts 1 and 2 based on your experiences with one nominated plan and its associated SEA. We recognise that you may have been involved in a number of plans that have been subject to SEA, but we need to be able to secure views on specific cases that we may also review documentation for. Accordingly, please identify a plan which you were responsible for.

**\* 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 your organisation that is responsible for preparing the plan and undertaking the SEA?**

- Local Authority
- Grouping of local authorities
- Non Departmental Government Body
- Other public body
- Partnership across many public bodies
- Scottish Government
- Other (please specify)

Other

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## 5. Who carried out the SEA?

- Fully in-house by your organisation
- Fully undertaken by consultants
- Partly in house and partly by consultants
- Don't know
- Other (please specify)

Other



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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
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"/>
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"/>
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"/>
The SEA enhanced the environmental performance of the plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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"/>
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"/>
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"/>
The SEA secured greater involvement of other organisations in the plan-preparation process	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The SEA secured greater involvement of the public in the plan preparation process	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The SEA ensured that more environmentally sustainable options were taken forward in the plan instead	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The SEA promoted more evidence based policy-making	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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"/>
The SEA improved transparency and accountability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The SEA and the plan-preparation processes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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were iterative with regular changes to the plan being made as

### 3. Did the SEA recommend mitigation measures that require to be put into place as the plan is implemented?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

### 4. If yes, how will you ensure that these mitigation measures are implemented?

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

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The SEA Scoping Report   | <input type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder representations on SEA  | <input type="checkbox"/> Driven by commitments in your organisation's other plans and programmes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The SEA Environmental Report   | <input type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder representations on plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Driven by socio-economic objectives of your organisation                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Consultation Authority written responses on the Environmental Report | <input type="checkbox"/> Meetings/liaison with stakeholders  | <input type="checkbox"/> Scottish Government policy  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Consultation Authority written response on the plan                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Political influence                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meetings/liaison with Consultation Authorities                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Single Outcome Agreements           |  |

Other

### 6. Please briefly explain why

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## PART 3 – HOW CAN WE DELIVER IMPROVEMENTS

This section seeks your views generally on how the process of SEA could be improved to ensure that it is effective in informing plan-makers about the environmental effects of their plans. 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 SEA could be enhanced. Much of this section allows free text answers and we welcome your views.

To help you think about these things, 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 the views, please keep your text as concise as possible. There is more space for expanding your views in the last question of this section.

**1. Do you have any suggestions about how the SEA process generally can be improved to help plan-makers better integrate environmental considerations into plans?**

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

**3. Do you have any suggestions about how SEA documents such as Environmental Reports can be improved to help plan-makers better integrate environmental considerations into plans?**

**4. Do you have any suggestions for improving the identification and implementation of mitigation measures?**

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

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

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

**8. 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?**

**9. General comments – please insert here any other general comments about improvements you feel should be made to enhance the effectiveness of SEA. (note: there is no text limit on this box)**



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## PART 4 – OVERALL PERCEPTION OF SEA IN SCOTLAND

This is the last part of the questionnaire. It 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.

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

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Indifferent	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
SEA is an effective use of time and resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SEA allows decision making to be much more transparent	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SEA is only worthwhile if it changes the plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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"/>
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"/>
SEA in the long term will transform plan-making practices to support more sustainable development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The content of most plans 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"/>
SEA makes relevant environment information available to decision-makers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SEA allows for effective public/stakeholder participation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SEA outputs are understandable and accessible to stakeholders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SEA outputs are understandable and accessible to the public	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future plan-making 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"/>

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**2. If you answered “Strongly disagree” or “Disagree” for the question above, it would be helpful if you could briefly explain here the reason for your view**

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

**4. If you could identify one single most frustrating aspect of SEA which is a barrier to better plan making, what would it be?**

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## PART 5 – THANK YOU AND NEXT STEPS

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"/>