



SEA Gateway
Scottish Government
Area 2F South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Our ref: 00130 Screening determination - Scottish Government - Heat Networks Bill

21 February 2020

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005: Section 8(1) Screening

Draft Heat Networks Bill

Statement – Screening Determination

I refer to the screening report prepared for the Draft Heat Networks Bill, which was submitted to the SEA Gateway on 22/05/2019. Responses from the Consultation Authorities were received on 18/06/2019, whose overall opinion was that there was no likelihood of significant environmental effects.

I am writing on behalf of the Directorate for Local Communities and Government to confirm that the Scottish Government has determined, using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, that the Draft Heat Networks Bill (now Heat Networks (Scotland) Bill) is unlikely to have significant environmental effects. As the Consultation Authorities agree with this view, the Scottish Government has determined that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is therefore not required.

I should outline that the final Bill contains a provision for licence holders having the ability to fell trees, should they present a danger to people, or prevent the installation or maintenance etc. of a heat network's pipework (section 66(3)). This was added to the Bill following the submission of the original screening report and was therefore not reflected in the screening. It is our opinion that the addition of this licencing provision would not have significant environmental effects. We are of this view as these powers would have limited application where access to the land has not been secured through other means. In addition, there will also only be a limited number of licence holders and limited number of large scale projects undertaken each year where this is likely to apply. On this basis, we consider that this will have no significant environmental effects and therefore the above determination is not affected and remains valid.



I enclose a copy of the determination advert which will be placed in the Edinburgh Gazette and Glasgow Herald. I would be grateful if you could forward this to the SEA Consultation Authorities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Kind regards,

Antonia Georgieva-Diaz

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005: Section 8(1) Screening Determination

Heat Networks (Scotland) Bill

The Scottish Government has determined that the Heat Networks (Scotland) Bill is not likely to generate significant environmental effects, and that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is therefore not required. The screening determination can be viewed at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/sea-screening-determinations-october-2019-to-october-2020/>.

A copy of the determination can be obtained by contacting SEA_Gateway@gov.scot or by calling 0131 244 7242. Written requests should be addressed to SEA Technical Team, Area 2F South, Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ.