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**From:** [REDACTED] (Defra) <[REDACTED]@defra.gsi.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 12 January 2018 15:10  
**To:** [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (DEFRA)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (DEFRA); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Planned golf course development within Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet Ramsar Site n. 897

All,

We've undertaken some further discussion and for the avoidance of doubt I should clarify that we normally aim to close off these sort of planning queries unless the 'urgent national interest' test has been triggered, i.e. planning is devolved to the relevant competent authorities and the planning system is designed to make sure that sensitive sites remain immune from potentially damaging planning developments. In that regard we could omit the highlighted text (below) if folk prefer.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | **Protected Areas Team | Wildlife Policy** | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Direct line: +44 [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED]@defra.gsi.gov.uk | Address: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Horizon House, Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AH.

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