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Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)

Application for a licence to disturb or injure marine European protected species (EPS) for one of the following purposes

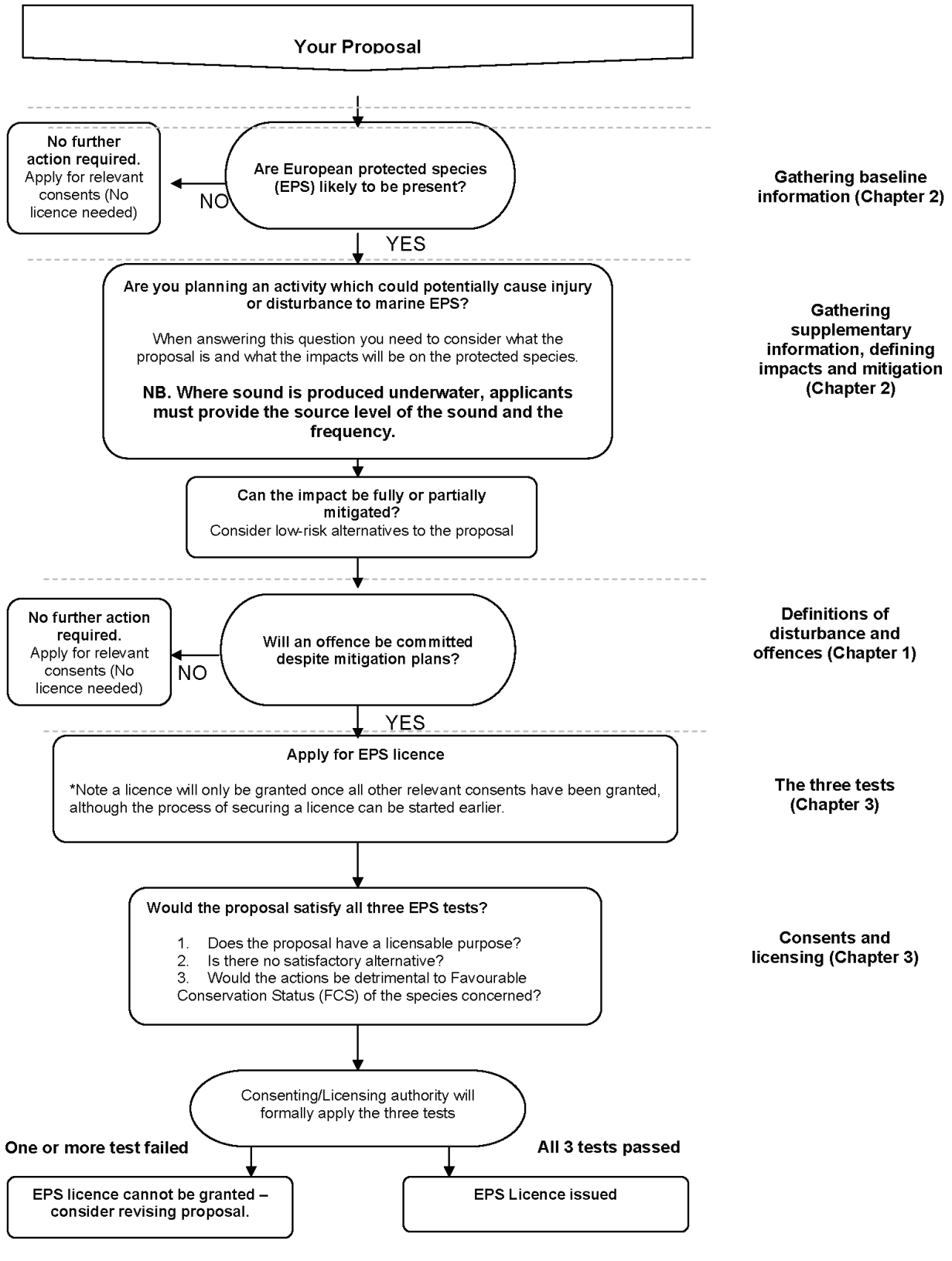
- For preserving public health or public safety
- For an imperative reason of overriding public interest (including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment)
- For preventing the spread of disease
- For preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other form of property, or to fisheries.

Please use this application form if you wish to undertake works/activities that would affect European protected species in the Scottish inshore marine area (0 – 12nm).

IMPORTANT: Before completing this form, please read these notes carefully

Applicants are advised to read these notes in conjunction with [The Protection of Marine European Protected Species from injury and disturbance: Guidance for Scottish Inshore Waters](#). If further clarification is needed please contact Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) on 0300 244 5046 or email: ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot

Flowchart showing the decision-making process
 Please refer to the relevant chapter of [The Protection of Marine European Protected Species from injury and disturbance: Guidance for Scottish Inshore Waters](#)



Gathering baseline information (Chapter 2)

Gathering supplementary information, defining impacts and mitigation (Chapter 2)

Definitions of disturbance and offences (Chapter 1)

The three tests (Chapter 3)

Consents and licensing (Chapter 3)



Please complete all relevant sections of the form.

Please ensure that you answer questions fully in order to avoid delays.

The completed application should be sent to Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) at the address below or emailed to ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot.

We will not process unsigned application forms.

Please ensure that you provide appropriate information to support your application. Applicants can provide this supporting information in the form of an EPS Risk Assessment. Guidance can be found in [The Protection of Marine European Protected Species from injury and disturbance: Guidance for Scottish Inshore Waters](#). Please contact MS-LOT if you wish to discuss the level of supporting documentation required for your application. Failure to provide sufficient supporting information may delay the consultation and licensing process.

MS-LOT will aim to determine whether a licence should be issued **within 6 to 8 weeks of acceptance of a completed application**. However, please note that for large scale or complex projects, the determination period may be longer.

If you experience any problems filling in this form, please contact MS-LOT.

Please use this application form if you wish to undertake works/activities that would affect European protected species in the Scottish marine area (0 – 12nm).

Please note that European protected species are also protected in the offshore marine environment (between 12 and 200 nautical miles). Species in this area are protected under The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Do not use this form if your application relates to scientific, research, conservation or educational purposes. Please contact Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH Licensing, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, Telephone 01463 725000, email licensing@snh.gov.uk or visit [their website](#)) for a licence application for these purposes. SNH also issues licences for the purposes of marking animals or plants in relation to conservation or introducing them to particular areas for conserving natural habitats, and for protecting zoological or botanical collections.

Before a licence can be granted, it is essential that other relevant licences or consents have been secured for the proposed activity (eg Marine licence).

It is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain any other consents or authorisations that may be required.

Part A

Section 1 Personal details

Please provide details of the individual, company or partnership you wish to be named on the licence. The licensee is responsible for ensuring compliance with the licence and its conditions. Under the Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 (as amended) it is an offence to fail to comply with the terms and conditions of a licence.

Section 2 Previous applications

Please provide details of any previous relevant licences.

Part B
Section 3

Species

Please provide details of the species that will be affected by the work, the number likely to be affected and a description of how this number was determined. This information can be described in detail in your supporting information. You will need to provide detailed proposals (to be included in the 'Supporting information') of all the mitigation work that you plan to carry out which will affect European protected species.

Location

Describe the location of the proposed works. Include a list of the latitude and longitude co-ordinates (WGS84) of the boundary points of the proposed project. WGS84 is the World Geodetic System 1984 and the reference co-ordinate system used for marine licence applications. Co-ordinates taken from GPS equipment should be set to WGS84. Coordinates taken from recent admiralty charts will be on a WGS84 compatible datum. Ordnance survey maps do not use WGS84. In a few cases, (e.g. laying of cables or pipelines) it may only be practicable to supply co-ordinates for the start and end points.

Example: For positions read from charts the format should be as in the example: 55°55.555'N 002°22.222'W (WGS84). The decimal point specifies that decimals of minutes are used and the datum is stated explicitly. If seconds are used then the format should be as in the example: 55°55'44"N 2°22'11"W (WGS84).

It is important that the correct positions, in the correct format, are included with this application, as any errors will result in the application being refused or delayed.

Section 4 Consideration of designated sites

Please provide details of any designated sites affected by your proposals. You are advised to consult Scottish Natural Heritage, or other appropriate regulator, if the work you propose to do affects a Natura site, an MPA or a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Section 5 Activities to be licensed

Please indicate the activities you intend to undertake that would otherwise be unlawful. Provide details of the proposed commencement and completion dates of the activities. **The licence start date will not be backdated, since to commence a project for which a licence has not been obtained may constitute an offence resulting in appropriate legal action.**

It is the licensee's responsibility to apply for any further licences or an extension prior to the expiry of the initial licence.

Section 6 Purpose of the licence application

Please indicate the purpose of the licence application, the first of the legal tests.

Please complete the relevant Annex to provide justification for the licensing purpose. This is the [legal basis of the application](#).

Section 7 Satisfactory alternatives

Please provide your consideration of why there is no satisfactory alternative. This must include all other options that have been evaluated, the alternative sites that were considered by you and why they were rejected (if no other sites were considered, you must provide the reasons why), as well as all alternative methods of carrying out the work and alternatives dates / timings.

In relation to each alternative considered, please provide an explanation of why you consider it to be satisfactory or unsatisfactory. In respect of any alternative sites please provide the location(s) and details of the alternative site(s), or your views on how the activity/proposal might have been achieved differently, and any other helpful information; e.g., pros and cons of alternative sites, or whether there is likely to be demand for all suitable sites to be used to meet an identified need. Please explain how this conclusion was reached.

Section 8 Summary of the planning / licensing position

Detail all consents and licences required for the proposed project and indicate those that you have applied for or received.

Section 9 Noise Monitoring

Under the Marine Strategy Regulations (2010), there is now a requirement to monitor loud, low to mid frequency (10Hz to 10kHz) impulsive noise. This includes use of seismic airguns, other geophysical surveys (<10kHz), pile driving, explosives and certain acoustic deterrent devices. This monitoring requires completion of a form at the application stage (giving details of the proposed work) as well as completion of a 'close-out' form (giving details of the actual dates and locations where the activities occurred). The close-out form should be returned within 12 weeks of completing the 'noisy' activity or, in the case of prolonged activities such as piling for harbour construction or wind farms, at quarterly intervals or after each phase of foundation installation.

These forms are available at: <https://mnr.jncc.gov.uk/>

Section 10 Privacy notice

This section briefly describes the Scottish Ministers responsibilities in relation to Data Protection based on the requirements of the data protection laws and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 and the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Part D

Section 11 Declaration and warning

It is important to read the Declaration and Warning sections before signing the application form.

Site visits and compliance checks

It is possible that the licensing authority may undertake a site visit prior to the issue of a licence. The majority of site visits will be arranged several days in advance and will be conducted in the presence of the licensee (or applicant) however there may be occasions when a site visit will be made at short notice.

Licensees should be aware that they may receive a request for a site visit by the licensing authority, or a person authorised by the licensing authority, to assess site conditions against the conditions of the licence. It is essential that if any of the agreed mitigation measures contained in the application and supporting information are changed for any reason, the licensing authority is informed as soon as possible.

The Licensing authority will monitor compliance with licences issued based on the information included in licence reports.

Where to seek further information

Further information can be obtained from Licensing Operations Team at the address below.

If your proposal relates to one of the purposes for which SNH is the licensing authority, please contact your local office of SNH.

Licensing Operations Team
Marine Scotland
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

Tel: 0300 244 5046
Email: MS.marinelicensing@gov.scot

Disclaimer

While every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this document is accurate, nothing in this document should be taken to replace the current legislation in force at this time. You are advised to obtain qualified legal advice in relation to your rights and responsibilities under the 1994 Regulations and other legislation.

Part A. The Applicant: Personal details

These questions relate to the person who will be the **named licensee**. The licence can be issued to an individual or a company or a partnership and the licensee will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the licence and the conditions of the licence. Under the Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 (as amended) it is an offence to fail to comply with any condition imposed by a licence.

1. Name of applicant

Title: <Redacted> Forename(s): <Redacted> Surname: <Redacted>

Company Name: Argyll and Bute Council

Business Title (if Appropriate):

Address: Development & Infrastructure Manse, Brae Office, Nanse Brae
Lochgilphead
Argyll
PA31 8RD

Tel no. (inc. dialling code): 01546604640

Email address: <Redacted>

2. The Applicant: Previous applications:

Have you previously held a wildlife licence issued in the UK? (please tick as appropriate)

Yes No (If yes, please complete below, if no, please go to Part B)

Who issued the licence?

Licence number (most recent licence)

Year in which the licence was issued.

What species were covered by the licence?

What activity was covered by the licence e.g. disturb, injure?

Part B. The Application

3. Species

(a) Please indicate which species is / are affected by the proposed works.

Common name(s): Harbour porpoise, Bottlenose dolphin, Common dolphin

Scientific name(s) Phocoena phocoena, Tursiops truncatus, Delphinus delphis

(b) How many individual animals will be affected by licensed work?

3

Please provide a description of how this number was calculated / estimated

In the absence of alternative survey data, the use of the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust Sightings map (<https://whaletrack.hwtd.org/sightings-map/>), as recommended by NatureScot, filtered by species for the 4 within Craignure Bay. Data was looked at for the past 5 years, during March-June, as GI (28 days) will take place during this period. over the past 5 years there have been 8 sightings (total) of Harbour porpoise, bottlenose dolphins and common dolphins, with the average sighting group size of 3 individuals sighted in or around the bay at any given instance where the works will take place so this number has been taken as representative potential numbers. Harbour porpoise are often sighted in small groups or singly, so this evidence is consistent with this (<https://marine.gov.scot/information/harbour-porpoise>)

See note here full coordinates list that would not fit in the space below

Coordinates	Latitude	ID
Longitude	Latitude	ID
-5°42.195171	56°28.383377	1
-5°42.159668	56°28.341620	2
-5°42.315081	56°28.300030	3
-5°42.344561	56°28.278811	4
-5°42.326119	56°28.268399	5
-5°42.341191	56°28.259818	6
-5°42.470503	56°28.328698	7
-5°42.459159	56°28.333724	8
-5°42.445255	56°28.327553	9
-5°42.394451	56°28.358801	10
-5°42.357685	56°28.345079	11

(c) **Location of proposed licensed action**

Latitude and Longitude co-ordinates (WGS84) defining the extent of the project. Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

LATITUDE										LONGITUDE										
5	6	°	2	8	.	3	8	3	'N			5	°	4	2	.	1	9	5	'W
5	6	°	2	8	.	3	4	2	'N			5	°	4	2	.	1	6	0	'W
5	6	°	2	8	.	3	0	0	'N			5	°	4	2	.	3	1	5	'W
5	6	°	2	8	.	2	7	9	'N			5	°	4	2	.	3	4	5	'W
5	6	°	2	8	.	2	6	8	'N			5	°	4	2	.	3	2	6	'W
5	6	°	2	8	.	2	6	0	'N			5	°	4	2	.	3	4	1	'W
5	6	°	2	8	.	3	2	9	'N			5	°	4	2	.	4	7	5	'W
5	6	°	2	8	.	3	3	4	'N			5	°	4	2	.	4	5	9	'W

- (d) Provide a brief description of the proposed activity and the methods to be used.
Detailed information should be included in your Supporting Information

Please provide details of the source levels and frequencies of underwater noise if relevant

Argyll and Bute Council wish to redevelop the ferry terminal at Craignure, Isle of Mull. The new ferry terminal is proposed to be located to the west of the existing pier and is expected to be a suspended deck structured founder on steel tubular or bored piles. To support the design of the new ferry terminal, a ground investigation (GI) is required to obtain geotechnical information on the seabed necessary for the design. The marine elements of the investigation consists of 18 no. rotary drilled boreholes approximately 200 mm in diameter, which will be undertaken from a jack-up barge to a maximum depth of 20m below seabed level. Each borehole sample will be no more than 0.63 m³ in volume. Noise levels associated with rotary drilling, at source, have been recorded at 95 dB by the contractor above water. Other studies (Huang et al 2023) have measured the source level of drilling to be 155.9 dB re 1µPa rms @ 1 m, containing a peak in energy at 45Hz with a sound level of 136 dB re 1µPa²/Hz. Drilling noise is non-impulsive and is generated by the drill bit grinding the soil and rock layer. Noise generated during drilling comes primarily from inside the seabed, and its energy would be greatly attenuated as it transmitted from the soil and rock layer into water. Casings on the outside of drill rod act as a sound barrier and further impede the noise propagation. The works will be undertaken continuously for the duration of the GI, although 'downtime' will be present while the rig moves from one location to another (approximately 4 hours downtime per borehole).

Magnitude of impact from noise is expected to be low. Huang et al. (2023) estimate that drilling noise could be heard by marine mammals at a maximum of 170 m, with a maximum distance for TTS at 40 m and PTS at 6 m for VHF cetaceans. The weighted Sound Exposure Level does not exceed the hearing damage thresholds for HF cetaceans.

Marine Mammal Monitoring will occur per the the protocol information in associated Risk Assessment Documentation

- (e) Briefly state how you will minimise the impact of your proposed work on European protected species.
Detailed information should be included in your Supporting Information.

A Marine Mammal Observer (MMO) will be on board aswell as a Passive Acoustic Monitoring Operator, and will follow the mitigation plan which is in accordance with JNCC guidelines, they will be present to monitor and watch for the presence. Based on the Huang et al 2023 paper, it was concluded that drilling noise was estimated to be detected at a distance of 170 m which has been used as a reference distance for these waters. SAC is therefore not considered to be significantly affected (as agreed by NatureScot) and the presence of the MMO and PAM operator (during poor visibility/night) on board to visually/acoustically check for the presence of harbour porpoise, bottlenose dolphins, and common dolphins prior to a borehole drilling activity commencing is considered to minimise the impact of the drilling to this species, if present. The selection of rotary drilling methodology also reduces the impulsive sound levels generated.

4. Consideration of designated sites

Designated Areas: National Nature Reserves (NNR), Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Ramsar sites, Marine Protected Areas (MPA). Information on designated sites is available on Scottish Natural Heritage website (<http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/>) or from your local SNH office.

- (a) Will any part of the proposed activity fall within /or adjacent to an area covered by a designated site eg SSSI, SAC, MPA? Yes No
- (b) Please give the name of the designated site(s) and either the outcome of your consultations or the reason why you have not consulted (see note 4). Please enclose any relevant correspondence.

The Inner Hebrides and Minches SAC is located more than 300 m from the site, prior consultation with NatureScot undertaken and they have concluded no LSE would occur. Correspondence enclosed.

5. Activities to be Licenced

Proposed Methods

(a) Please complete all relevant columns in the table below to indicate the methods you propose to use, the activity involved and the time period in which you propose to use each method. This information will be used when preparing the licence to cover activities that would otherwise be unlawful, and failure to give full details may result in an inappropriate licence being issued.

Activity to be licensed (please tick)					Method to be used, (e.g. piling)	Time period	
Capture	Kill (exceptional circumstances only)	Injure	Transport	Disturb/ Harass		From	To
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rotary Drilling	01/03/2024	30/06/2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

6. Purposes of the licence application (tick one box only)

A licence can only be issued if 3 specific legal tests are met. The section below relates to the first of these tests. The options shown are taken from the **Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)**.

Please indicate which purpose relates to the proposed works

(a) Preserving public health or public safety (we will require evidence that there is a risk to public health or public safety e.g. an imminent risk of flooding) Regulation 44(2)(e)

Complete Annex A

(b) Imperative reasons of overriding public interest (including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment) Regulation 44(2)(e)

Complete Annex B

(c) Preventing the spread of disease Regulation 44(2)(f)

Complete Annex C

(d) Preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other form of property, or to fisheries Regulation 44(2)(g).

Complete AnnexD

7. Satisfactory alternatives

This relates to the second of the legal tests which must be satisfied. Please explain why there is no satisfactory alternative to carrying out the proposed work affecting the species. You must describe all possible alternatives which were considered and why they were considered unsuitable. You must also consider the option of not undertaking the work. **It is not acceptable to state that 'there is no alternative'.**

Craignure Ferry terminal is the main terminal for the Isle of Mull with ferries operating to Oban 4-6 times per day during winter and up to 12 times per day during summer. A replacement ferry terminal is required to provide continued passenger services to the residents of the Isle of Mull; the existing terminal is reaching the end of its serviceable life, with some elements in poor condition and the arrangement does not meet the full requirements (such as the ability for vessels to overnight throughout the year). In addition, the terrestrial marshalling facilities are not considered to have capacity for the vehicles using the ferries and so congestion and traffic queues are caused within the village of Craignure. When undertaking construction works of this nature, a GI is a typical means to obtain sufficient geotechnical data to inform the proposed design and/or decide on the proposed location of particular infrastructure, and inform construction methodologies. There are little alternatives to a GI that would obtain the required information that would not cause some level of disturbance within the water column.

Investment to replace the existing ferry terminal is considered to be required, and consideration of alternative options have been and are being considered prior to committing to the investment. A Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance report has been prepared which considers the potential alternatives to the design of the replacement ferry terminal. These alternatives must meet the four long-term transport planning objectives which are:

1. to support a year round 'full day' service, able to berth at Craignure overnight
2. all infrastructure (berthing, marshalling, passenger access and facilities) to support next-generation vessels
3. Maintain/improve operator performance
4. minimise the short term negative social and economic impacts during construction

Based on the outcomes of the GI, the option selected will consider the STAG criteria: Environment, Safety, Economy, Integration, Accessibility and Social Inclusion

8. Other Licences / Consents

Please detail below all licences / consents you have applied for or received. **Before a licence can be granted, it is essential that other relevant licences or consents have been secured for the proposed activity (eg Marine licence).**

Type of Licence / Consent (e.g. Marine Licence, Local Planning Authority, Local Works Licence)	Date Applied for	Reference no.	Date of issue of licence / consent
Marine Licence	05/12/2023	TBC	TBC

9. Noise Monitoring

Please indicate if any of the following noise generating activities will be taking place during the operations:

Use of explosives Piling Use of Acoustic Deterrent Devices
Survey equipment operating in the range 10 Hz – 10kHz

If you have ticked any of the above boxes please complete a Proposed Activity form in the Marine Noise Registry at: <https://mnr.jncc.gov.uk/>.

Please note the form must only be completed once for each activity. If you have already completed a form for this activity (eg through the marine licensing process) please give details.

Not applicable due to type of operation and frequency of equipment

EPS licence applications will not be accepted until this form has been completed and submitted.

11. **Privacy notice**

The Scottish Government’s Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) has a range of statutory responsibilities including determining applications for licences to disturb or injure marine European protected species (EPS) under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) and The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Basking shark licences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

MS-LOT will, where necessary, process personal information including: names, addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers to determine a licence application. Personal information will be stored securely in the Scottish Government’s official corporate record.

A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB. Email: ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot

Have you remembered to enclose Supporting Information with your application, as described in the accompanying guidance? Please check

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Completed Application form | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Completed Annex | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Map / Chart | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Correct co-ordinates | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Additional information / EPS risk assessment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Part C. Declarations

11. I have read and understand the guidance provided in this application form. I declare that the particulars given are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I apply for a licence in accordance with these particulars.

I authorise employees or representatives of the Scottish Ministers to enter the site which is subject to this application for the purpose of monitoring and inspecting the permitted works.

Warning

Under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) it is an offence to fail to comply with the conditions imposed by a licence. The licensee is responsible for ensuring compliance with the licence.

The Scottish Ministers can modify or revoke a licence at any time, provided there are good reasons. Any licence that may be issued is likely to be revoked immediately if it is discovered that false information was provided and resulted in the issue of a licence.

Under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, any person who in order to obtain a licence knowingly or recklessly makes a statement or representation, or furnishes a document or information which is false in a material particular, shall be guilty of an offence and may be liable to criminal prosecution. Any person found guilty of such offences is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale (currently £5,000), or to both imprisonment and a fine.

Note: Previous convictions for wildlife offences will be taken into account and in some cases may mean that the Scottish Ministers do not consider it appropriate to grant a licence.

Signature of the
Applicant

<Redacted>

Date 14/12/2023

(The person named at part 1)

Name in BLOCK
LETTERS

<Redacted>

Note – If signing on behalf of a company, please append your signature with “on behalf of *Company Name*”.

The completed application should be signed and sent to Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) at the address below or emailed to MS.Marinelicensing@gov.scot

Please remember to include all supporting information.

Licensing Operations Team
Marine Scotland
EPS Division
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

Disclaimer

While every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this document is accurate, nothing in this document should be taken to replace the current legislation in force at this time. You are advised to obtain qualified legal advice in relation to your rights and responsibilities under the 1994 Regulations and other legislation.

Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road,
Aberdeen AB11 9DB
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine>



Annex A

Only to be completed if you selected *for Preserving public health or public safety* in Question 6 of the application form

Please complete all questions

Give details of the risk to public health or safety

How has the risk been identified. Please give details of any expert advice received.

How will the proposed activity address the identified risk

Annex B

Only to be completed if you selected for *Imperative reasons of overriding public interest (including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment)* in Question 6 of the application form

Please complete all questions

What benefits will be provided by the proposed activity? Give details and indicate if they are social, economic or environmental. Please indicate if the benefits are short or long term.

The ferry terminal at Craignure provides essential passenger ferry services to the residents of the Isle of Mull and the replacement is required to provide long-term continuation of this service. The replacement also aims to improve the reliability of these ferry services and to reduce the congestion currently felt on the road network in Craignure during ferry arrivals and departures.

What public interest will be served? Who will benefit from the proposed activity? Does the proposed activity address a need?

Residents of the Isle of Mull, provision of a vital passenger/ferry service to and from mainland Scotland. This covers commuting for work (where timetabling allows), alongside travel for hospital appointments and freight delivery to the island. The terminal also acts as an RNLI deployment structure for local rescue operations. The current pier does not provide a reliable year-round overnight berth which places significant restrictions on 'time on mainland' when the service is operated by a single crewed Oban-based vessel.

Why is it imperative the proposed activity goes ahead?

serviceable life. The implication of not repairing the existing infrastructure is load restrictions being placed on the pier structures and linkspan. The GI is the first step to determine and agree the potential location for a replacement terminal that is known to be needed in the short-to-medium term future; it is recognised that interim repair measures will be required to reinforce existing infrastructure while construction of the replacement takes place (to achieve the goal of minimising service disruption during construction).

Does the proposed activity support any local regional or national policies? Please give details. Are you fulfilling a statutory role?

Argyll & Bute Council are the Statutory Harbour Authority who own the pier, the delivery of the replacement scheme is supporting by national strategic transport planning objectives in Scotland (Transport Scotland). This has been developed in conjunction with Argyll Ferries Infrastructure Group (AFIG) - Transport Scotland, CMAL, CFL.

Annex C

Only to be completed if you selected for *Preventing the spread of disease* in Question 6 of the application form

Please complete all questions

What disease(s) is / are at risk of being spread if the proposed activity does not go ahead? Please give details of any expert advice received.

How will the proposed activity prevent the spread of disease? Please give details of any expert advice received.

Annex D

Only to be completed if you selected for *Preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other form of property, or to fisheries* in Question 6 of the application form.

Please complete all questions

What serious damage has occurred or will occur if the proposed activity does not go ahead. Please give details of any expert advice received.

How will the proposed activity prevent serious damage? Please give details of any expert advice received.