

Campbell Stewart  
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Glasgow  
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Date: 21 July 2025

Dear Mr Stewart,

**SCREENING OPINION UNDER THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017**

Thank you for your screening opinion request dated 30 April 2025 in regard to the proposed temporal extension of the dredging and deposit activities at Granton Harbour, Edinburgh (“the Proposed Works”).

The Proposed Works are to be undertaken as part of the Granton Harbour redevelopment (“the Licensed Works”), for which a construction marine licence and a dredging and sea deposit marine licence were granted in July 2022. This screening opinion only deals with the dredging and sea deposit aspects of The Licensed Works.

The Licensed Works are an Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) project therefore the Scottish Ministers consider the Proposed Works to fall under paragraph 13 of schedule 2 of The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (“the 2017 MW Regulations”) with the Proposed Works meeting the corresponding threshold described in column 2 of schedule 2. Consequently, the Scottish Ministers are obliged to adopt a screening opinion as to whether the Proposed Works are an Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) project under the 2017 MW Regulations.

Under regulation 10(5) of the 2017 MW Regulations, the Scottish Ministers have consulted with NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (“SEPA”), The City of Edinburgh Council and Historic Environment Scotland (“HES”) as to their view on whether the Proposed Works are an EIA project. Copies of the consultation responses received are attached for your review (at Appendix I).

When making a determination as to whether schedule 2 works are an EIA project, the Scottish Ministers must provide their reasons in a written statement, taking into account the selection criteria set out in schedule 3 of the 2017 MW Regulations, as are relevant to the Proposed Works. This is set out below.

**Characteristics of the works**

The Licensed Works currently have two valid marine licences, one authorising construction and another authorising dredging and sea deposit of dredge material. The current marine licences are valid until the 31 July 2025. Recent funding amendments have caused the harbour development to be redesigned resulting in a reduced dredge area and causing delays to the dredging program. The reduced dredge area is within the dredge area assessed

in the EIA. The Proposed Works are for a temporal extension to the dredging and sea deposit marine licence of three years to allow dredging of the reduced dredge area.

### **Location of the works**

The Proposed Works lie within or in close proximity to a number of designated sites however the pathway of impact on these sites is unchanged from that which was assessed in the EIA. The proposed change to the methodology is to dredge a reduced area from that which was assessed in the EIA. The Schedule of Mitigation will continue to be adhered to, including relevant mitigation.

NatureScot advised that its previous conclusion of no adverse effect on site integrity, provided the mitigation was in place, is unlikely to be affected by an extension of dredging time. This advice is based on all mitigation being carried forward into any new marine licence. NatureScot confirms it does not consider the temporal changes require an EIA as no additional impacts are likely.

### **Characteristics of the potential impact**

HES advised on the potential for impacts on historic environment interests from the Proposed Works. It advised that it has not identified any potentially significant effects on the historic environment and therefore have no reason to consider the Proposed Works to be EIA.

The City of Edinburgh Council advised that the Proposed Works do not raise significant concerns within it's remit and therefore it is of the opinion that the Proposed Works do not require consideration through the EIA process.

SEPA advised that with respect to interests relevant to its remit an EIA is not required for the Proposed Works.

### **Conclusion**

In view of the findings above, the Scottish Ministers are of the opinion that, an EIA is not required to be carried out in respect of the Proposed Works under the 2017 MW Regulations.

If you increase, alter or extend the Proposed Works, you are advised to contact Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team again to confirm if the screening opinion is still valid.

A copy of the screening opinion has been forwarded to The City of Edinburgh Council planning department. The screening opinion has also been made publicly available through the [Marine Scotland Information](#) website.

If you require any further assistance or advice on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Ross  
Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team