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Dear Dr Fleming

**SCREENING OPINION UNDER PART 2 OF THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017 ("the EIA Regulations")
HUNTERSTON MARINE CONSTRUCTION YARD**

I refer to your correspondence regarding the proposed works at Hunterston Marine Construction Yard dated 20th February 2017 and your subsequent correspondence dated 8th May 2017, both addressed to North Ayrshire Council and requesting a screening opinion from them.

I confirm that Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) have adopted the following screening opinion on behalf of the Scottish Ministers.

MS-LOT have reviewed the aforementioned information submitted to North Ayrshire Council and have consulted with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). A copy of SNH's consultation response is enclosed for information.

The proposals are not considered to fall under paragraphs 5(c) and 8(2) or any other paragraph of the Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations. The proposals are however considered to fall under paragraphs 1(e), 4(g) 11(e) and potentially 10 (m) of Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations.

MS-LOT is of the opinion that a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required in this instance as the scale, location and potential impacts of the project are not considered to have significant effects on the environment. It is felt that any potential impacts can be identified and mitigated during the marine licensing process without requiring the support of a full EIA. This opinion is based on you employing the mitigation identified in your Environmental Review document dated February 2017 (subject to consultation and assessment), including but not limited to the following:-

- The new dry dock gate structure (caissons) shall be built within the existing sand bund to minimise any potential impacts on the water environment;
- The dredge pocket at the hammerhead quay is designed with a stable 1:6 dredge slope which avoids encroachment into the SSSI; and
- The material being dredged shall be brought to land. Dredging will only take place when caisson gates and quay upgrades are complete and ready for use. In addition, to minimise and avoid marine impacts the following steps will be employed:

1. Use long reach excavators to take away rock armour and sand in front of the new entrance gates to an achievable level by excavator;
2. Use this sand material to prepare a series of temporary lagoons on the construction yard to receive pumped sands from dredging;
3. Prepare pipework from the temporary lagoons to the existing void on the marine yard;
4. Pump dredged sand ashore to the lagoons and allow residual water to flow to the void area; and
5. Allow this water to settle until suitably clear and then pump to sea through existing or new discharge network under appropriate consents from SEPA.

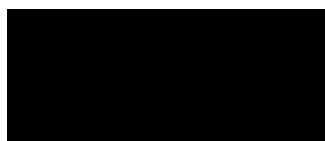
MS-LOT would direct you to SEPA's standing advice in respect of marine licence consultations which can be found at <http://www.sepa.org.uk/media/143312/lups-gu13-sepa-standing-advice-for-marine-scotland-on-small-scale-marine-licence-consultations.pdf>.

I would, in particular, highlight the general advice contained within section 3 together with the advice regarding specific types of structures/activities.

I understand that the proposed works may represent the first phase of a larger project and would therefore advise that if you increase, extend or alter the proposed works (including amendments to the mitigation measures you propose to use) you are advised to submit a further screening request. In this regard I would highlight the terms of SNH's consultation response.

A copy of this screening opinion has been forwarded to Gordon Craig Planning Officer, North Ayrshire Council and will also be made available to the public through publication on MS-LOT's website at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/current-construction-projects>.

Yours sincerely



Mike Bland
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