

By email to: sea.gateway@gov.scot

Ms Karen Greenwood Project Manager - SR21 Scottish Water Longmore House Salisbury Place Edinburgh EH9 1SH

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Our case ID: 300040726 Your ref: 01508 Screening

09 January 2020

Dear Ms Greenwood

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 01508 Screening- Scottish Water - Scottish Water Strategic Plan - A Sustainable Future Together

Screening Report

Thank you for your consultation which we received on 17 December 2019 about the above screening report. We have reviewed the screening report in our role as a Consultation Authority under the above Act, in accordance with the requirements of Section 9(3). In doing so we have used the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of the effects on the environment. Please note that our view is based on main area of interest for the historic environment.

We understand that the Scottish Water Strategic Plan will aim to address climate change and wider environmental issues, while helping deliver inclusive growth. The three substantive components of the Strategic Plan will set a positive direction of travel for addressing many environmental challenges of relevance to the water sector.

You consider that each substantive component of the Strategic Plan therefore links with multiple SEA topics and is likely to generate (whether directly or indirectly) a range of environmental effects. However, you have taken the view that the high level nature of the Strategic Plan and its strategic focus means that whilst relevant targets, priorities, and commitments have been identified, it is not possible to at this stage to confirm how these will be implemented and thus to identify specific likely significant environmental effects from the delivery of the Strategic Plan itself.

On the basis of the information provided, we are content to agree that significant effects on the historic environment as a result of the Strategic Plan itself are unlikely to be identified. We welcome that you intend to consider the SEA requirements in relation to all lower level implementation plans, and that you have identified criteria which will embed

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environmental considerations into the development of lower level implementation plans and projects.

However, as you will be aware, it is the responsibility of Scottish Water as the Responsible Authority to determine whether the guidance requires an environmental assessment and to inform the Consultation Authorities accordingly.

We hope this is helpful. Please contact us if you have any questions about this response. The officer managing this case is Virginia Sharp who can be contacted by phone on 0131 668 8704 or by email on <u>Virginia.Sharp@hes.scot</u>.

Yours sincerely

Historic Environment Scotland