

Chair
Scottish Environment Link
13 Marshall Place,
Perth,
PH2 8AH

Our Ref: AM/RB
Your Ref:

8 August 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

As you may be aware, in 2016, I launched SEPA's new One Planet Prosperity regulatory strategy. This sets out our ambitious aims to transform the way we regulate. A copy of One Planet Prosperity can be found at: <http://www.sepa.org.uk/media/219427/one-planet-prosperity-our-regulatory-strategy.pdf>

The most successful businesses in the future will be those that are not just legally compliant, but which are also low carbon, low material use, low water use and low waste. These progressive businesses will view environmental excellence as an opportunity, not a problem.

Under One Planet Prosperity, we want to be a regulator that helps progressive businesses to identify and take these opportunities, creating long-term environmental improvements and more lasting prosperity. This will require us to develop our capacity to work with businesses to encourage and support innovation. We want to work collaboratively with business sectors, individual businesses and other organisations to drive and support innovation, problem solving and, ultimately, prosperity within the capacity of our planet to support it. We will also continue to support progressive businesses by ensuring a level playing field in which they are not undermined by others who disregard compliance.

At the core of our new approach is the concept of Sector Plans. We will be developing a Sector Plan for each sector we regulate. These plans will guide our engagement with the sector, both in terms of driving compliance and assisting as many businesses as possible to voluntarily go beyond compliance, making sure we use the most effective means possible to achieve both these aims.

For responsible businesses, Sector Plans will make life easier. Sector Plans will help ensure SEPA's requirements for compliance are clearer, SEPA's interactions are more strategic and better co-ordinated and tailored for businesses to comply and be supported to pursue opportunities beyond compliance within their specific commercial context.

For irresponsible businesses, Sector Plans will make life harder. Sector Plans will ensure that it is more difficult to avoid our clearer requirements to comply and will enable us to take more strategic and co-ordinated action to tackle non-compliance, including using the wide range of new enforcement powers granted to us by Parliament.

In short, the majority of business trying to do the right thing will benefit; the minority of businesses trying to do the wrong thing will suffer.



Chairman
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We have recently finalised the first three Sector Plans - these are for Scotch Whisky, Metals and Landfills. We will also soon be releasing draft plans for Fin-fish Aquaculture, Oil and Gas Decommissioning and Tyres. We are now starting another ten sector plans and we know that the one or more of these plans will be of interest to your organisation. The next ten sectors are Forestry and Timber Production and Processing, Dairy Farming, Dairy Production, Crop Production, Leather, Water and Waste Water Treatment, Strategic Infrastructure, Housing, Nuclear and Chemicals Manufacturing.

We want the widest possible range of input and review to make sure this sector planning approach is as effective as possible. Naturally, the involvement of your organisation will be an essential part of this effort.

At this stage, please contact Rebecca Badger (Rebecca.badger@sepa.org.uk, tel: 07795605805) who will be able to discuss with you how we can involve your organisation in the development of our Sector Plans and also put you in touch with the lead, deputy and project officer for any specific sectors you are interested in.

Yours sincerely



Terry Ahearn
CEO