Dear Mr Breslin,

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005: Scottish Canals Draft Waterspace Strategy - Screening Report**

I refer to your screening consultation submitted on 27 July 2012 via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway in respect of the above strategy.

In accordance with Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, SNH has considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment. In addition, we have received further information from the responsible authority on the nature of environmental impacts that implementation of the strategy could give rise to, and the measures that will be taken to manage these. In light of this information we are content that any impacts on the natural heritage will be local in scale, and can be mitigated through Scottish Canal’s environmental management regime. Therefore we agree with the Screening Report that the Strategy will not have significant impacts on our main areas of interest.

Please note that this consultation response provides a view solely on the potential for the plan or programme to have significant effects on the natural heritage. SNH cannot comment on whether or not the plan or programme meets other criteria determining the need for SEA as set out in the Act.

Should you wish to discuss this screening determination, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0141 951 0853 or via SNH’s SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@snh.gov.uk.
Yours sincerely,

Arthur Keller

Operations Manager
Strathclyde & Ayrshire

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