Statement of Reasons by Sandra White MSP

11 May 2005

In relation to my draft proposal for a Bill, the Third Party Planning Rights of Appeal (Scotland) Bill, I do not consider that consultation on the draft is required for the following reasons:

A consultation paper on Third Party Planning Rights of Appeal (Scotland) Bill was produced by me and was open to consultation between September 2003 and December 2003. The main areas consulted on were whether it was desirable to have a third party right of appeal, whether there should be any restrictions on the exercise of such a right of appeal and whether there should be any financial implications in place for those bringing the appeal.

Copies of the consultation document were sent to every local authority and community council in Scotland, the Royal Town Planning Institute, Association of Town Planners, Friends of the Earth and any other interested organisations or community groups who requested a copy. A list of respondents is attached.

In light of this large scale consultation, I do not believe that it is necessary to carry out further consultation as there has been adequate opportunity for any interested parties to come forward with their views. The Scottish Executive have also recently completed a consultation on planning issues. This ended on 30 July 2004.

I therefore request the Committee to consider the above statement and confirm that it is satisfied with the reasons for not consulting on the draft proposal.