Dear Graham

Post-legislative scrutiny of the Marine Scotland Act 2010

Earlier in the year the Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee sought views from the public on which Acts would benefit from post-legislative scrutiny.

From the 24 Acts suggested the Committee agreed a shortlist of those it wished to take forward in the first instance. For the others the Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government seeking information on the issues and concerns that were raised in the submissions.

In respect of the above Act I am writing to you seeking a written response to these issues. I would be grateful if you could provide a reply by **Friday 23 February 2018**.

A copy of the information provided in the submission can be found in the Annexe.

A link to our post-legislative scrutiny page can be found here:


Yours sincerely,

Alison Wilson
Assistant Clerk
Annexe

The Marine Scotland Act was introduced in 2010 to provide a strategic overview of the use of the marine environment, and deliver Good Environmental Status (GES) in line with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) by 2020.

While the outcomes of the Act are still being delivered, we believe it would be beneficial for the Act itself to undergo scrutiny to ensure the provisions within the Act are still sufficient to meet its objectives. Additionally, given that a Scottish Inshore Fisheries Bill is expected, scrutinising the Act may highlight opportunities for better co-ordination between the Act and the future Inshore Fisheries Bill.

As set out in the Act, a National Marine Plan for Scotland has been developed and will be reviewed next year, and progress continues to developed regional marine plans. Scottish Government has made good progress developing a network of Marine Protected Areas, which is set to be reviewed by the end of 2018. The Act covers a broad range of processes to guide the sustainable use of Scotland’s marine area encompassing a variety of sectors, within environmental limits.