

NZET Committee - SEPA Evidence Session 25th February 2025

Further information requested by the Committee



Introduction

SEPA provided oral evidence to the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee on 25th February 2025.

On 4th March 2025, the Committee wrote to SEPA seeking further information on matters raised during the session.

We hope that the information below provides the Committee with the further evidence it needs to consider these matters.

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Mossmorran

The committee asked:

Mark Ruskell MSP questioned SEPA on communication with the community regarding the ongoing case at Mossmorran, which is with the Procurator Fiscal (PF). **Follow-up: SEPA acknowledged confidentiality issues but promised to review and provide an update on any engagement that has taken place in the interim.**

SEPA response:

Information about operations at the Mossmorran complex and how it is regulated is available to the public at [Mossmorran | Beta | SEPA | Scottish Environment Protection Agency](#). This hub is routinely updated and provides information such as compliance and monitoring work being undertaken by SEPA and notifications of planned works by the operators.

The local community were advised by SEPA that a report had been submitted to the PF in July 2020 in relation to flaring from the ExxonMobil Chemical Limited, Fife Ethylene Plant at Mossmorran during April 2019. Upon receipt of the report, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) become responsible for the assessment and progression of the case and, as such, any enquiries about the report should be submitted directly to them. Contact details and further information can be found on COPFS' website: [Support and Services | COPFS](#)

SEPA continues to attend quarterly meetings of the Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community Safety and Liaison Committee. These meetings enable information about inspections and monitoring to be discussed. The most recent meeting was held in March 2025.

SEPA also contributes to annual reports and the Independent Air Quality Assessment each year. These can be found on Fife Council's website: [Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay | Fife Council](#). Monitoring includes two continuous noise sensors, 10 AQ Mesh indicative air units and one reference air station, with the air quality data available in real time at: <http://informatics.sepa.org.uk/MossmorranAirQualityNetwork/>

Seabed analysis (Aquaculture)

The committee asked:

*The Convener referenced the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee (RAIC) report from January 2025, highlighting the urgency of improving SEPA's seabed sample analysis. SEPA confirmed they are implementing an environmental DNA (eDNA) methodology and are on track to meet the RAIC's timeframe. **Follow-up: SEPA committed to providing further information on the specific sources of sample data, particularly from the industry.***

SEPA response:

Under SEPA's 2019 regulatory framework for marine fish farms, operators must monitor the effects of farm discharges on the seabed around their farms. They are required to submit the results of this monitoring to us, which we then use to assess compliance with seabed environmental standards. We also undertake our own programme of independent audit monitoring of the seabed around marine fish farms to check compliance.

SEPA, fish producers and Salmon Scotland have been collaborating on a research project, supported by the Sustainable Aquaculture Innovation Centre, and led by the University of the Highlands and Islands together with scientists from Germany and the Netherlands to develop the use of DNA to assess seabed impacts.

DNA-based monitoring enables much faster analysis of seabed samples collected from around fish farms than conventional techniques. Based on outputs of a first phase of the research project, in 2022, SEPA introduced the option for fish farmers to use DNA-based seabed monitoring at locations with suitable seabed characteristics. Fish producers taking up the option must follow DNA sampling and analysis protocols specified by SEPA to ensure their monitoring results are of suitable scientific quality. SEPA follows the same protocols when using DNA-based monitoring as part of its compliance checking monitoring programmes.

A second phase of the DNA research project is due to deliver in the next few months. SEPA anticipates the outputs of this second phase will extend the range of seabed types for which DNA-based monitoring is suitable, and, hence, the number of farms at which DNA-based seabed monitoring can be used.

SEPA is also collaborating on separate research projects aimed at using imagery and artificial intelligence to assess impacts on otherwise difficult to assess seabed types. These are currently being trialled at several farms.

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

The committee asked:

*Douglas Lumsden MSP raised concerns about SEPA's role in assessing risks related to battery energy storage systems, given the lack of a regulatory framework. SEPA acknowledged the issue and stated they are working with the Scottish Government on regulatory options. **Follow-up: SEPA agreed to consider publishing a formal statement on risks and indicated there is no set timeline for legislative changes.***

SEPA response:

SEPA provided data and advice to Scottish Government about BESS sites as part of the development of the Environmental Authorisation (Scotland) Regulations (EASR) and raised the potential option for BESS sites to be considered as a new activity. At that time, consideration was being given at a UK level as to whether the Control of Major Accident Hazards regulations (COMAH) should be the vehicle for managing risk at these sites. The COMAH regulations are UK regulations where SEPA is a joint regulator in Scotland alongside the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Recently Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) has indicated that it may consider BESS as an activity under environmental permitting in England and Wales rather than under COMAH and are currently developing proposals for consultation. SEPA will continue to engage with the Scottish Government and discussions in this area are at an early stage.

Energy storage has an important role to play in the development of a smart, flexible, and decarbonised energy system. NPF4 Policy 11 (Energy) states that:

“development proposals for all forms of renewable, low-carbon and zero emissions technologies will be supported. These include ... iii) energy storage, such as battery storage and pumped hydro storage”.

SEPA will continue to work with the planning authorities through the Heads of Planning Groups, directly with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and the Scottish Government to highlight potential environmental impacts and regulatory gaps.

SEPA is currently considering publishing information on our website which would set out the areas where we have a regulatory remit in relation to BESS sites. SEPA cannot regulate activities where we have no jurisdiction under statute. As well as setting out our roles, we would intend the webpage to link to:

- HSE [guidance](#) to help those with responsibilities during the life-cycle of BESS manage the health and safety risks of BESS sites.
- Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) [guidance](#) in relation to health and safety at BESS sites.

Our remit with regards to BESS sites is limited to our role as a statutory consultee at planning stage and our role in regulating water discharges. These are detailed below:

Planning and Environmental Impact Assessment

We provide advice to planning authorities on Local Development Plans, and on various types of planning, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and planning-related applications. Our planning triage framework sets out the circumstances in which planning authorities should consult us on such applications. Consultation triggers for BESS may, for example, include flood risk or development on peat/carbon rich soil. Proposals which fall below our consultation thresholds are covered by our standing advice. Further [details](#) are available on our website.

Regulatory control

BESS do not currently fall within the Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) regulations, or COMAH (Control of major accident hazards) regimes.

Prior to construction works commencing on site, an authorisation under The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (CAR) will be required. This authorisation is known as a Construction Water Run off Permit ([Water run-off from construction sites | Scottish Environment Protection Agency \(SEPA\)](#)) and contains conditions to ensure protection of the water environment during construction.

Post construction, the discharge of surface water run-off is covered by General Binding Rules (GBR), specifically GBR10 (B) [The Water Environment \(Controlled Activities\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2011](#). These provide statutory controls over certain activities including the

discharge of surface water from developments to the water environment and if a site complies with the GBR they are authorised to carry out the activity.

SEPA will not require authorisation for the construction and operation of firewater ponds / impoundments that receive their inflow from an authorised abstraction. Abstractions from inland water will be regulated through a GBR, a registration, a simple or a complex licence depending on the volume of water to be abstracted. Similarly, for abstractions from coastal waters abstractions will take place under a GBR or a registration depending on volumes.

Flood risk

National Planning Framework 4 policy 22 (flooding) includes limited support for development proposals at risk of flooding or in a flood risk area including for essential infrastructure where the location is required for operational reasons. Essential infrastructure includes all forms of renewable, low-carbon and zero emission technologies for electricity generation and distribution and transmission. SEPA has produced Flood Risk Standing Advice for Planning Authorities, which covers essential infrastructure developments where there is no land raising or loss of floodplain capacity.

Waste Management

The committee asked:

*Michael Matheson MSP sought clarity on the percentage of Scotland's waste processed within the country and any gaps which might require the offshoring of waste. SEPA highlighted a reduction in residual waste but did not provide an exact percentage. **Follow-up: SEPA committed to providing data on the percentage of waste processed in Scotland and provide details on specific waste types that must be processed elsewhere.***

SEPA response:

The latest [data](#) that SEPA can provide on this is from 2022. In 2022, Scotland produced an estimated 10.16 million tonnes of waste. Of this, 1.46 million tonnes was managed outside Scotland. Therefore, Scotland managed **85.6%** of its waste within its own borders. At the same time 0.44 million tonnes came into Scotland for management – the majority being waste wood for biomass energy production.

Key reasons that waste leaves Scotland are:

- Access to recycling markets, particularly for metal, paper and plastic. These materials go to manufacturing countries – reflecting that we have fewer such industries in Scotland.
- Export of some residual waste to The Netherlands and Scandinavia for incineration.
- Export of specific low volume or hazardous waste – such as batteries, spent solvents, fly ash from waste incineration and healthcare wastes - for specialist treatment in England.

Flood risk and Potentially Vulnerable Areas

The committee asked:

Sarah Boyack MSP asked about SEPA's recent update on potentially vulnerable areas (PVAs) for flooding between 2028 and 2034. SEPA noted that it has moved from a catchment-based to a community-based model, increasing identified PVAs. **Follow-up: SEPA agreed to provide comparative data on how the new approach impacts different regions, down to the constituency level.**

SEPA response:

The PVAs are updated and published every 6 years. They were first identified in 2011 and updated in 2018. In December 2024 they were updated again for use in the next flood risk management cycle (2028-2034) after a public consultation.

In 2011 and 2018 the PVAs were large areas based on river catchments or coastal areas, with areas of community focus within them, known as target areas. Each target area has actions to reduce flood risk listed in [Flood Risk Management plans](#). The plans also list the national actions that take place across the country that help manage current and future flooding.

Feedback from partners, stakeholders, and the public through previous consultations, concluded that having both the PVAs and the target areas made the prioritisation of flood risk management actions unclear. As a result, a key change implemented for 2028-2034 PVAs is that instead of having both target areas and PVAs, we will only have community focused PVAs. The communities at significant risk of flooding, previously identified as target areas, will become the PVAs. 71% of consultation respondents supported the move to community-scale PVAs, saying it made the designations clearer and more relevant locally.

There are 284,000 homes and businesses at risk in Scotland and the PVAs for 2028-2034 contain 90% of this risk, with the remainder distributed across the country.

As requested, the table in Annex 1 show the constituency breakdowns of the changes in the PVA between flood risk management (FRM) cycles 2022-2028 and 2028-2034.

River Basin Management Plan Progress

The committee asked:

Sarah Boyack MSP inquired about SEPA's progress toward achieving the 2027 target of 81% of Scotland's water bodies reaching "good" status. SEPA outlined its regulatory efforts and challenges, particularly diffuse pollution.

Follow-up: noting SEPA outlined that there may be challenges in meeting the 2027 RBMP target in relation to the status of water bodies, particularly due to diffuse pollution, the Committee would appreciate:

- ***information on whether SEPA is in discussions with the Scottish Government about the challenges in meeting this target;***
- ***further information on what remedial measures are being considered or pursued in order to get on track to meet the target; and***
- ***a specific update on Edinburgh and Lothians river restoration projects.***

SEPA response:

RBMP Targets

SEPA is working with the Scottish Government on challenges in meeting the RBMP targets. This has focussed on 3 areas:

1. **Regulation** - *A review of licences to ensure abstractions, discharges and impoundments meet the requirements necessary to achieve RBMP targets.* SEPA is closely monitoring and managing delivery of the regulatory actions to ensure they remain on track and taking enforcement action where appropriate. Targets for progressing these actions are included in SEPA's Annual Operating Plan for 2025/26 which will be published in April.
2. **Diffuse Pollution** - *Improving our understanding of how the environment responds to measures to tackle rural diffuse pollution, in particular if General Binding Rules for diffuse pollution are sufficient to achieve RBMP targets.* Further measures may be needed to achieve good water quality in intensively farmed catchments, and we are discussing with Scottish Government whether and how additional measures to protect rivers and better manage soil in intensively farmed catchments could be included in the Agricultural Reform Programme.

3. **River Restoration** - *Delivery of river restoration projects under the Water Environment Fund (WEF)*. WEF only has capacity to deliver a proportion of the programme of restoration projects required to meet RBMP targets and through a prioritisation process we are considering how to accelerate projects and ensure we are targeting efforts on projects that will deliver the most benefit. We are also exploring alternative delivery routes for redundant fish barriers.

River Restoration in Edinburgh and Lothians

WEF has supported seven completed fish barrier projects, where fish passes have been installed to bypass a redundant weir. This increases available habitat for wild native fish. Most of these are along the River Almond, River Tyne and at Cramond. We are also supporting further fish barrier projects and urban river restoration projects across the Lothians. Some examples of current projects and details about all projects in the area are set out in Annex 2.

SEPA is also a member of the Edinburgh & Lothian Strategic Drainage Partnership. This promotes and implements blue-green drainage infrastructure, to support resilience in Edinburgh and the Lothian's drainage infrastructure, while also securing significant benefits for biodiversity, health and well-being, and sustainable travel.

SEPA's Customer Hub

The committee asked:

Sarah Boyack MSP raised concerns about SEPA automating its 24/7 contact centre, potentially limiting stakeholder engagement. The issue of staff redundancies was also raised.

SEPA clarified that emergency calls will still be handled by staff, and no compulsory redundancies have occurred.

Follow-up: SEPA agreed to provide a briefing on how automation affects access to information and complaints; SEPA confirmed some staff are in a redeployment pool but promised to provide the exact number.

SEPA response:

In our written evidence to the committee of [13th January 2025](#), we provided comprehensive details of the new SEPA Customer Hub.

Between 8am and 6pm, all calls to SEPA from stakeholders, the public and communities are responded to by a colleague in our customer experience hub. The automated out-of-hours service is in place between 6pm and 8am, however, all emergency calls are routed to a colleague.

The process for access to information and complaints has not changed. To submit a request for information, please email our [Access to Information Service](#). Our complaints procedure is outlined here [Complaints handling procedure | Beta | SEPA | Scottish Environment Protection Agency](#).

To ensure compliance with Data Protection legislation protecting the rights and freedoms of individuals and our internal policies, we cannot provide an exact figure for staff redeployment, but we can confirm that there are less than 10.

Business Architecture and Data Strategy Contract

The committee asked:

*Sarah Boyack MSP requested clarification on a contract let to Adaptovate to deliver a new business architecture and data strategy for SEPA. **Follow-up: SEPA agreed to provide detailed feedback on the procurement process.***

SEPA response:

As part of SEPA's change work, SEPA required an external partner to shape, lead and deliver a Business Architecture and Data Strategy project of work. This work is business critical and needed to happen quickly to enable the SEPA leadership team, and SEPA Board, to make decisions based on documented information on where they focus their efforts, priorities and investment for the overarching transformation programme.

The project has several contract phases, but each contract has been taken forward, as an individual procurement activity. On each individual contract, there is a clear exit point from the previous one, to manage risk.

SEPA utilised a framework which provided value for money, reduced risks and timeframes to award contracts in line with SEPA's Procurement Policy. Adaptovate Ltd was awarded the contract via direct call off from an established Public Sector Framework ([NHS Shared Business Services](#)). Direct award is a compliant route to market and a procurement option for organisations seeking to fulfil a critical business need. The award process has been fully transparent with contract award notices published via the government portal.

Air quality: WHO Guidelines for Nitrogen Dioxide and fine particulate matter

The committee asked:

Mark Ruskell MSP asked whether SEPA had advised the Scottish Government on adopting the 2021 WHO air quality standards for nitrogen dioxide and fine particulate matter. The Committee also discussed petition [PE2123: Update air quality standards in Scotland to align with 2021 World Health Organisation guidelines](#). SEPA confirmed preliminary discussions but did not provide details. **Follow-up: SEPA agreed to provide further information on the status of those discussions.**

SEPA response:

Scotland's air quality standards are currently contained within two legislative frameworks, the Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000, as amended in 2002 and 2016 which cover domestic air quality objectives, which local authorities are required to work towards, and the Air Quality Standards (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (as amended) covering EU air quality limit and target values, which are the responsibility of Scottish Ministers and form part of assimilated EU law. This legislation forms the basis for how local air quality is managed in Scotland.

SEPA has had preliminary discussions with the Scottish Government on the requirements of the revised 2021 World Health Organisation (WHO) Guidelines and the requirements of EU Directive (EU) 2024/28 (and potential implications) prior to the review of Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 (CAFS2) being undertaken. We have also provided a visual analysis of air quality monitoring and modelling data to assess what the status of compliance would be with these updated air quality requirements and what additional measures may be required to work towards, or ensure, future compliance.

SEPA will continue to provide technical support to the Scottish Government as the scope of the CAFS2 review is determined and undertaken. The decision on whether the 2021 WHO Guidelines and the requirements of the Directive (EU) 2024/28 are adopted (and to what extent) rests with the Scottish Government.

Air quality: Use of S.85 powers for enforcement

The committee asked:

*Mark Ruskell MSP questioned SEPA's lack of enforcement under Section 85 of the Environment Act 1995 following the 2022 ESS improvement report. SEPA confirmed that it had not used Section 85 powers but has issued warning letters to underperforming local authorities. **Follow-up: SEPA agreed to share updates on how they have implemented ESS recommendations.***

SEPA response:

In February 2024, SEPA supplied ESS with an update on progress. This included:

Enforcement

Two local authorities were non-compliant in 2024/25 - for late submissions of an Annual Progress Report (APR) and an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) respectively. Both were issued with a warning and both local authorities complied within the stated warning period. All other local authorities fulfilled their Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) duties as required by the statutory guidance, therefore no other enforcement action was warranted.

There have been no exceedances of air quality objectives for any of the air quality pollutants at automatic monitoring stations across Scotland since 2022 and therefore all local authorities are complying with the legal requirements for air quality in their areas.

Use of SEPA's reserve powers remains a last resort and SEPA works constructively with local authorities to resolve compliance issues prior to reaching this final level of enforcement. To date, where a local authority has been issued with a warning/final warning, the compliance issue has been resolved satisfactorily without SEPA having to consider approaching Scottish Ministers for approval to issue a direction to a local authority. SEPA has taken appropriate enforcement action in all cases where it has been determined necessary.

LAQM Policy Guidance

SEPA assisted the Scottish Government in a revision to LAQM PG (S) (23) to strengthen the process surrounding LAQM and ensure local authorities fulfil their duties under the 1995 Act. This revised guidance, published as LAQM PG (S) 24 in May 2024, remains in force and since publication SEPA and local authorities have followed the requirements of this guidance.

Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and action planning

SEPA continues to assist those local authorities who have AQMAs with the development and implementation of their associated Air Quality Action Plans (AQAPs) and revocation of AQMAs where determined to be no longer required.

Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) diffusion tube (DT) data

SEPA audited historic NO₂ DT data from local authorities to ensure published data submitted to the Air Quality in Scotland website is consistent with data reported in Annual Progress Report (APR)s. We are developing an on-line tool to assist with visualisation of the historic NO₂ diffusion tube dataset.

From 2024, all local authorities must submit their DT data annually via the national Diffusion Tube Data Entry System (DTDES) prior to submitting their APR. SEPA continues to audit annual DT data (when assessing local authority APRs) and has also provided training and assistance to local authorities on use of the DTDES system.

Public availability of local authority LAQM reports

ESS noted that several of the local authorities' LAQM reports are not publicly available. During 2024, SEPA notified local authorities of the need to submit their latest APRs to the Air Quality in Scotland Website along with any outstanding documentation (such as AQAPs, AQMA Orders, revocation reports, detailed assessments, etc. from previous years) to ensure a full, publicly accessible, record of LAQM documentation is provided in a single location.

Since this time, SEPA has conducted an audit of LAQM documentation missing from the Air Quality in Scotland website, and this list has been passed to the contractor that provides the Scottish Government's Air Quality in Scotland website, to follow-up and complete.

Air quality: Development of code of practice on agricultural ammonia emissions

The committee asked:

Mark Ruskell MSP asked SEPA about its role in developing a code of practice on agricultural emissions of ammonia. The Committee notes that SEPA's webpage on air quality states that in relation to CAFS2, it is delivering the following tasks: "Working with the agricultural industry to develop a voluntary code of good agricultural practice for improving air quality in Scotland, sharing best practice and raising awareness of greenhouse gases and ammonia, and actions that farmers and crofters can take to minimise their environmental impact while improving efficiency". **Follow-up: The Committee would appreciate further information on who is leading on this piece of work and what the timeline is for its delivery.**

SEPA response:

We accept that the wording on our [website as to SEPA's role](#) was misleading and this has now been corrected. We have also taken the opportunity to review and update the Air Quality page to provide more information to visitors. The original action under CAFS2 was "the Scottish Government will work together with SEPA and the agricultural industry to develop a voluntary code of good agricultural practice for improving air quality in Scotland" as described in the [Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 Delivery Plan](#) SEPA was listed as a support organisation for delivery along with the agriculture industry. This action was to be delivered by the CAFS2 Agriculture and Environment Working Group (AEWG) set up by the Scottish Government.

The AEWG agreed with the Scottish Government that measures to reduce emissions from agriculture to air should be incorporated into the relevant chapters of the Prevention of Environmental Pollution from Agricultural Activity (PEPFAA) code. The AEWG identified two chapters as being particularly important for air quality: manure handling and storage, and inorganic and liquid fertilisers. SEPA inputted into the update of the relevant chapters through the AEWG. Both of these chapters have now been updated and published (August 2024) and SEPA proactively promotes use of the updated [PEPFAA](#) code.

Annex 1 – PVAs by Constituency

PVA consultation summary: [Consultation on Potentially Vulnerable Areas \(PVAs\) for Flood Risk Management in Scotland 2024 - Scottish Environment Protection Agency - Citizen Space](#)

PVA Consultation Report: https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/evidence-and-flooding/potentially-vulnerable-areas/results/public_consultation_report_final.pdf

PVAs data download and visualisation: [Potentially Vulnerable Areas \(PVAs\) 2028-2034 | Beta | SEPA | Scottish Environment Protection Agency](#)

Constituency	No. of PVAs (2022-2028)	No. of Target Areas (2022-2028)	No. of PVAs (2028-2034)
Aberdeen Central	0	0	0
Aberdeen North	1	3	3
Aberdeen South	3	4	4
Airdrie and Shotts	3	4	4
Angus	4	5	5
Argyll and Bute	9	11	9
Ayr	3	6	6
Banff and Buchan	6	13	12
Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross	7	11	11
Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley	12	15	15
Central Fife	0	3	3
Clydebank and Milngavie	0	5	5
Clydesdale	3	7	7
Coatbridge and Chryston	1	1	1
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth	0	4	4
Cunninghame North	5	10	12
Cunninghame South	0	4	4
Dumbarton	2	7	7
Dumfries	7	14	14
Dundee East	0	2	2
Dundee West	1	0	0

Constituency	No. of PVAs (2022-2028)	No. of Target Areas (2022-2028)	No. of PVAs (2028-2034)
Dunfermline East	1	3	3
Dunfermline West	3	7	7
East Kilbride	1	3	3
East Lothian	4	9	9
Eastwood	0	4	4
Edinburgh Central	0	1	1
Edinburgh East and Musselburgh	1	1	1
Edinburgh North and Leith	1	1	1
Edinburgh Pentlands	1	0	0
Edinburgh South	2	2	2
Edinburgh West	2	3	3
Falkirk East	3	8	10
Falkirk West	1	4	4
Galloway and Upper Nithsdale	15	18	17
Glasgow Anniesland	1	3	3
Glasgow Baillieston	0	5	5
Glasgow Cathcart	0	4	4
Glasgow Govan	0	3	3
Glasgow Kelvin	1	2	2
Glasgow Maryhill	0	4	4
Glasgow Pollok	1	2	2
Glasgow Rutherglen	1	4	4
Glasgow Shettleston	0	3	3
Glasgow Springburn	1	2	2
Gordon	9	10	10
Greenock and Inverclyde	1	3	3

Constituency	No. of PVAs (2022-2028)	No. of Target Areas (2022-2028)	No. of PVAs (2028-2034)
Hamilton North and Bellshill	0	4	4
Hamilton South	1	2	2
Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber	11	14	16
Kilmarnock and Loudoun	2	7	7
Kirkcaldy	1	2	2
Linlithgow	3	7	7
Livingston	1	3	3
Midlothian	1	6	5
Moray	10	14	13
Motherwell and Wishaw	0	3	3
North East Fife	8	12	12
North Tayside	12	16	17
Ochil	4	8	8
Orkney	8	13	9
Paisley North	0	1	1
Paisley South	0	3	3
Perth	4	6	6
Ross, Skye and Inverness West	11	16	19
Roxburgh and Berwickshire	8	8	8
Shetland	4	6	6
Stirling	5	7	14
Strathkelvin and Bearsden	1	6	4
Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale	6	14	14
West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine	9	11	14
West Renfrewshire	3	12	12
Western Isles	5	5	5

ANNEX 2 – WEF Projects in the Lothians

Some examples of current projects in the area are set out below and in the following table.

- The **Bathgate Meadows Restoration Project**, which is at design stage, aims to restore 1.6km of the Bog Burn, Boghead Burn and Bathgate Water, in Bathgate and provide active travel routes through the Bathgate Meadows to connect areas of the town. It is a partnership between West Lothian Council (WLC), SEPA and Sustrans and benefitting from National Lottery Heritage Funding. The work is expected to start in 2027.
- SEPA is a partner and part funder of the **Burdiehouse Burn Restoration Project** which aims to develop a regeneration project restoring 5km of river channel along 10km of the burn and enhancing surrounding habitats for the benefit of people and nature. The Project is being led by Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust (ELGT) and is currently consulting with local stakeholders and communities on concept designs. We expect technical designs to be completed by the end of 2025 in preparation for a first phase of works in the summer of 2026.
- Installation of a “rock ramp” fish pass at the redundant **Dowies Mill Weir** on the River Almond at Cramond in 2026 will enable migrating wild fish to travel upstream to available habitat in the River Almond. The weir is owned by City of Edinburgh Council. This will be the seventh and final local authority weir in the Almond catchment to be eased for fish passage enabling wild native fish to make use of up to 300 km of upstream catchment habitat.
- The **Esk Fish Barriers Project** aims to improve fish passage across multiple impassable weirs on the Rivers North Esk and South Esk, Midlothian. At least ten impassable barriers exist across both rivers. These structures are privately owned, and SEPA will directly commission all project stages using WEF, with the agreement of the landowners. The potential exists to open access to over 200km of previously inaccessible habitat to migratory fish.

Table of previous and new WEF projects within Lothian.

Catchment	Location	Project Name	Lead/ Key Partner	Project type	Summary of Project Progress
Redundant Weirs Obstructing Migrating Fish					
Almond	Mid Calder	Mid Calder Weir	West Lothian Council	Fish Pass Installation	Completed
	Livingston	Rugby Club Weir	West Lothian Council	Fish Pass Installation	Completed
	Livingston	Kirkton Weir	West Lothian Council	Fish Pass Installation	Completed
	Polbeth	Limefield Falls Weir	West Lothian Council	Fish Pass Installation	Completed
	Livingston	Howden Bridge weir	West Lothian Council	Fish Pass Installation	Completed
	Cramond	Fair A Far Weir	City of Edinburgh Council	Fish Pass Installation	Completed
	Cramond	Dowies Mill Weir	City of Edinburgh Council	Fish Pass Installation	Detailed design stage for a "Rock Ramp"
Tyne	East Linton	Preston Mill Weir	SEPA	Fish Pass Installation	Completed
	East Linton	Knowes Weir	SEPA	Weir removal	Completed pending potential eel pass development
	Haddington	Cascades Weir	East Lothian Council	Fish barrier easement/removal	Working on technical and legal issues
North Esk	Dalkeith	Montagu Bridge Weir	SEPA	Fish barrier easement/removal	Early concept design stage
	Melville Castle	Ironmills Weir	SEPA	Fish barrier easement/removal	Early concept design stage
	Dalmore	Dalmore Weir	SEPA	Fish barrier easement/removal	Early concept design stage
	Lasswade	Lasswade Weir	SEPA	Fish barrier easement/removal	Early concept design stage

Catchment	Location	Project Name	Lead/ Key Partner	Project type	Summary of Project Progress
South Esk	Dalkeith	Dalkeith Weir	SEPA	Fish barrier easement/removal	Early concept design stage
	Lothianbridge	Lothianbridge Weir	SEPA	Fish barrier easement/removal	Early concept design stage
Restoration and Enhancement of Urban River Corridors					
Burdie-house Burn	Edinburgh	Burdiehouse Burn	Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust	Urban river restoration	Moving to the design stages
Bathgate Water	Bathgate	Bathgate Water	West Lothian Council	Urban river restoration	Moving to the design stages
Braid Burn	Edinburgh	Braid Burn	TBC	Urban river restoration	Potential project being reviewed
Water of Leith	Edinburgh	Water of Leith	TBC	Urban river restoration	Potential project being reviewed
Gogar Burn	Edinburgh	Gogar Burn	TBC	Urban river restoration	Potential project being reviewed
Murray Burn	Edinburgh	Murray Burn	TBC	Urban river restoration	Potential project being reviewed
Mains Burn	Linlithgow	Mains Burn	TBC	Urban river restoration	Potential project being reviewed