Dear Graeme,

Thank you for your letter outlining the ECCLR Committee’s interest in the Islands (Scotland) Bill and in particular on the marine licensing provisions.

The Committee plans to scrutinise the Bill through a call for written evidence and a programme of oral evidence and visits. This incorporates scrutiny of the marine licensing provisions which are of interest to your Committee.

The proposed programme of oral evidence is as follows:

- 6 September – evidence panel from the Scottish Government
- 20 September – evidence panel on constituency boundaries and ward sizes – from the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland and local authorities
- 20 September – evidence panel from local authorities
- 25 October – evidence panel on island proofing and the Bill – from voluntary and private sector representatives
- 25 October – evidence panel on island-proofing and islands plan – from statutory bodies
- 1 November – evidence panel on marine licensing provisions – from SEPA, environmental bodies and other relevant groups.

A formal external Committee meeting has been scheduled in Orkney on 2 October, as well as a visit to the Isle of Mull on 24 and 25 August. A series of informal visits to meet with community members and stakeholders is anticipated. Further evidence
sessions may also be required and, should this be the case, I will provide information on these in due course.

Kind regards

Edward Mountain
Convener