



07<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Wild Land Assessment Guidance  
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Dear Sir/Madam

### **Assessing impacts on Wild Land**

Scottish Water welcomes the opportunity to comment on the above consultation paper.

In terms of our new project builds and enhancement work within or near any Wild Land Area (WLA) these would be accounted for through the Quality and Standards (Q&S) process. Scenarios most likely to drive investment would be water resource issues. Where need for a new source was identified, studies would inform the requirements followed by investment in the following cycle.

The consultation questions and our responses are set out below.

1) Does the 2017 draft guidance provide a clear explanation of the methodology and general principles for assessing the impact of development proposals on Wild Land Areas?

#### ***General comment***

We consider that the technical guidance would benefit from a flowchart of the process being included in the final document.

#### ***Step 2: Establish a baseline, section 17***

We note that, in establishing the baseline, the assessor is required to augment desk-based study with fieldwork. We would welcome some clarity on this requirement so that the fieldwork would be focussed to collect the appropriate quality and level of data detail.

2) Are the examples within Annex 2 helpful in illustrating the approach to assessing impacts?

While the examples illustrate the approach to assessing impacts well, it would be helpful if a more diverse range of activities could be used as examples.

Yours faithfully

Kerry Davidson  
**Technical Lead Environmental Regulation and Climate Change**