

**25 May 2022**

## **Environmental Standards Scotland consultation calls for views on Strategic Plan**

Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS) has today (25 May 2022) published its draft Strategic Plan for consultation. The consultation gives organisations and members of the public with an interest in ESS' role the opportunity to provide feedback and help shape the development of the final Strategic Plan, which will be submitted to the Scottish Parliament in September 2022 for approval.

The organisation, which was established to ensure environmental law is being complied with and delivered effectively in Scotland post-Brexit, is keen to hear a wide range of views on the draft plan. In addition to the online consultation, ESS will also host information sessions where people can hear more about the proposals and ask questions about its role.

ESS' first Annual Report to Parliament has also been published today. This provides an overview of activities and progress in ESS' first independent six months of operation since it was launched in October 2021. In addition, the Report provides key statistics on environmental representations submitted to date, alongside informal resolution and investigation case studies.

Jim Martin, Chair of ESS, said: "Our Strategic Plan will set out a clear roadmap of how ESS is going to ensure Scotland has the high environmental standards the public deserve and the strong systems required to maintain them. Together with our first Annual Report, which details our achievements since our vesting date of 1 October 2021, it represents a positive milestone in our development and demonstrates how we intend to carry out the vital role that has been given to us.

"Environmental law directly and indirectly impacts every resident, business and public body in Scotland so we're keen to hear from a wide range of people and would encourage anyone interested in our new scrutiny role to respond to the consultation."

**-ENDS-**

**About the consultation process:**

The consultation is open until 17 August 2022 and you are invited to share your views with ESS using the online survey:

<https://consult.gov.scot/environmental-standards-scotland/draft-strategic-plan>

Alternatively, you can send responses to the consultation by email to [enquiries@environmentalstandards.scot](mailto:enquiries@environmentalstandards.scot) or by post to: Environmental Standards Scotland, Thistle House, 91 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5HD.

Online events can be signed up to here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/344597459277>

ESS will analyse and consider responses to this consultation and will take them into account when drafting the final Strategic Plan. A summary of the views expressed in response to the consultation, and how those were taken into account in the development of the final Plan, will be published alongside the final Strategic Plan.

Further information is available here - [Interim Strategic Plan - Environmental Standards Scotland](#)

The Annual Report can be downloaded here - [Our organisation - Environmental Standards Scotland](#)

**About Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS):**

Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS) began its formal operations on 1 October 2021, as part of the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021, following the UK's departure from the European Union. ESS is responsible for ensuring Scotland's public authorities, including government and its agencies, are compliant with environmental law, and that the law, and the way it is being implemented, are effective.

ESS is independent of Scottish Government, but accountable to the Scottish Parliament. In its role, ESS will scrutinise public authorities' compliance with environmental law, the effectiveness of these laws and the way they are implemented and applied and has statutory powers to act where required.

**For more information, visit:** [environmentalstandards.scot](https://environmentalstandards.scot)

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