

Interim Case Update – 22 July 2025

Licensing and Removal of Weirs

CASE ID: IESS.21.015

Background

During Environmental Standards Scotland's (ESS') pre-investigation work on the licencing of barriers in Scottish rivers, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) provided an implementation plan, staged across five years, indicating how barrier removal or easement of river structures would take place. The plan was developed in early 2022 by SEPA in accordance with Scotland's Third River Basin Management Plan, which the Scottish Government laid in the Scottish Parliament in December 2021. Given that SEPA's plan, at that point, was relatively new, ESS decided to monitor and engage with SEPA on its implementation of the various stages of the plan.

Case Progress

ESS requested information from SEPA in March 2025 as to the progress made towards completion of the agreed plan for 2024/25. SEPA responded in May 2025 with the progress to date and indication that further barriers additional to the total had been identified. ESS has requested clarification on a number of matters arising from SEPA's update, including an understanding of how the additional barriers will be integrated into the barrier removal plan.

ESS' third review of progress will be updated in due course.

Previous Updates

This update should be read in conjunction with previous briefings which can be found at:

- [Licencing and Removal of Weirs Summary Report - Environmental Standards Scotland](#)

- [Licencing and Removal of Weirs - May 2023 Progress Update - Environmental Standards Scotland](#)
- [Licencing and Removal of Weirs Second Review of Progress September 2024 - Environmental Standards Scotland](#)