

Consultation on a new Enterprise Agency for the South of Scotland



March 2018

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Ministerial Foreword



I am delighted to launch this consultation seeking your views on the new Enterprise Agency for the South of Scotland. I want to ensure that we hear from a wide range of people to inform the development of the new Agency.

We have the opportunity to be bold and ambitious, to transform the area's economy, building on its significant strengths and traditions.

The South of Scotland is a beautiful region with a long and important history in our economy. It nurtured Scotland's textile industry, its agriculture and forestry sectors are thriving, and a growing tourism industry attracts visitors from far and wide. Its entrepreneurial spirit is reflected in its diverse business base, many of which are small and family owned. In its towns and villages, people report a stronger sense of belonging to their local community than people in Scotland as a whole. The economic seeds are all there and with the right nurturing can greatly flourish.

In the Enterprise and Skills Review, we asked the South of Scotland what it wanted from its future. You told us clearly you wanted to see: a strong workforce, a skilled business base, thriving communities, and more opportunities. We share this vision. That's why we made the commitment that the South of Scotland should have its own Enterprise Agency, to lead on bringing that vision to life.

We've set out what we see as the initial high level aims for the Agency. We want it to drive the economy forward with growth that creates opportunities for all, where the benefits of increased prosperity are shared. We want it to sustain and grow communities so that people thrive in the places where they live and work. And we want it to capitalise on the people and resources of the South, making the most of the assets to address exclusion and assist growth. We will continue to listen to you in developing an Agency with the right powers carrying out the right activities to deliver that ambition. Working together we can deliver a body that can make the difference.

Building on our combined achievements, we want an Agency that can unlock potential, address opportunities and respond to needs, to make sure that the South has the strong role in Scotland's economy that it deserves. We want the South of Scotland to drive forward its own future, a future created of the South, by the South and for the South. And we want to ensure we're doing all we can to see that this future is one of fair work and inclusive growth.

That's why it's important we hear from you in this consultation: to find out what matters to you, to your businesses, your industries and your communities. This is your opportunity to shape the future, to tell us what is important to you.

Thank you for taking the time to respond. I look forward to the dialogue.

KEITH BROWN MSP

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work

1. Aim of Consultation

- 1.1. This consultation seeks your views on the establishment of a new Enterprise Agency for the South of Scotland. Your response will shape the development of the South of Scotland Enterprise Agency, influence what it will do and inform the legislation needed to establish it.
- 1.2. Our commitment to establish a new Agency responds to what you told us was needed to help the economy of the South grow. The foundations are there. We want to continue the conversation to build on that base and to get the detail of the design right.
- 1.3. We know it is vital that the Agency is able to drive inclusive growth, increase competitiveness and tackle inequality across the South of Scotland¹. It will act as a voice for the South, a strong advocate for the area providing direction and vision.
- 1.4. We want to hear what you feel would make the difference. This paper sets out a framework for that discussion. But we don't want to constrain the discussion and we welcome all of your views and suggestions. As well as this written consultation document, we will be taking forward a range of meetings across the area over the next few months to hear your views directly.

2. What we want for the South of Scotland

- 2.1. We know that our vision for the economy of the South of Scotland has to reflect what the businesses and people of the area tell us. We want the South of Scotland to drive forward its own future, a future created in the South, of the South and for the South. By engaging in this consultation you can tell us what you want to see happen and what the Agency could do.
- 2.2. Across Scotland, our central purpose has been to create a more successful country with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth. To deliver that our economic strategy focuses on four priorities:
 - investing in our people and infrastructure in a sustainable way;
 - fostering a culture of innovation and research and development;
 - promoting inclusive growth and creating opportunities through a fair and inclusive jobs market and regional cohesion; and
 - promoting Scotland on the international stage to boost trade and investment, influence and networks.
- 2.3. Those four priorities are relevant to the South of Scotland and we want to ensure that people across the area enjoy the benefits of inclusive growth. The area has many natural advantages which make it attractive for residents, visitors and

¹ Covering local authority areas of Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish Borders Council – see section on geography

those looking to locate to the area. It is strategically well placed with major road and rail links. It has significant land assets and energy resources. It has active further and higher education sectors operating across the area. It has growing businesses, which are innovative and world-leading.

2.4. We want to encourage innovation, ambition and creativity in the South and stimulate an international, outward-looking perspective. We want to support those sectors that are important to the area's economic success and which contribute to Scotland's prosperity. We want to ensure people have the skills to succeed now and to make the most of future opportunities, harnessing the potential of generations to generate wealth for all. We want to respond to the potential and needs of the diverse and various communities, weaving a strong fabric for the future. We know that the Agency needs to understand the assets and opportunities of the South, to make informed decisions and to act differently to address exclusion and assist growth. But do you agree?

2.5. So our ambition for the future of the South of Scotland is one which has:

- businesses with increased productivity, ambitious for the future, investing in innovation and offering good conditions of employment paying higher wages;
- a skilled workforce with both the skills needed now, and the ability to develop the skills needed for the future;
- more opportunities for young people so that they can see a future in the area, and to attract people who want to locate in the area;
- communities better equipped to play a greater role in the economic, social and environmental success of their area; and
- a clear commitment to inclusive growth, taking a holistic look at the barriers that are getting in the way and taking action to address them.

Question 1: Do you agree with our ambition outlined above?

Question 2: What would you like to see for the South of Scotland?

3. Ambitions for the new South of Scotland Enterprise Agency

3.1. The new Agency is a unique and exciting opportunity for the South of Scotland. It is a chance to bring a fresh approach to economic development and regeneration and to transform the economy to ensure that it reaches its potential so that towns, communities and people across the South enjoy increased prosperity. It is an opportunity to address exclusion, responding to the barriers preventing people participating in the economy, enjoying inclusive growth and accessing opportunities. The Agency will be able to build on the traditions and strengths of the area with an eye to future growth.

3.2. Our decision to establish the Agency came from listening to stakeholders as part of the review of Scotland's Enterprise and Skills System. In Phase 1 of the Enterprise and Skills Review, we recognised the need for a fresh approach in the

South of Scotland through a new vehicle to meet the area's enterprise and skills needs, supporting inclusive economic growth and increased productivity². In Phase 2 we confirmed that the South of Scotland Enterprise Agency would be established as a public body through primary legislation. The Agency would promote fair work and inclusive growth in all its endeavours with a focus on three initial general aims to:

- maximise the area's contribution to Scotland's inclusive growth, supporting a diverse and resilient economy;
- sustain and grow communities, building and strengthening communities with joined up economic and community support; and
- capitalise on people and resources – developing skills, promoting assets and resources and maximising the impact of investment in the area.³

3.3. The Agency will have a leadership role supporting inclusive growth in the area, ensuring an approach tailored to opportunities and economic context, recognising distinctiveness. The Agency will want to build on the work already done to apply the Scottish Government's inclusive growth diagnostic by working with other partners to apply its findings. That will enable it to have a deep understanding of the sorts of issues preventing people from fully participating in the economy of the South, be they caring responsibilities that can sometimes prevent people being able to take up employment opportunities or transport issues that mean people just cannot get to work. It will ensure a different approach to investment decisions so that they address exclusion while assisting growth.

3.4. With a clear strategic vision, the Agency will take forward a range of activities to deliver its three overarching aims. Those activities will evolve and change, responsive to circumstances. It will play a leading role to deliver the South of Scotland that all want to see, working with a range of partners, reflecting the ambitions and aspirations of its businesses and people.

3.5. We are taking forward our commitment to establish the Agency. Our Programme for Government, published on 5 September 2017, confirmed that the legislation to establish a new public body would be introduced in the Scottish Parliament in 2018. If the legislation receives Parliamentary approval, the new statutory body can begin its formal legislative operation from 1 April 2020⁴. We are clear though that the South cannot wait for the legislative process to be complete.

3.6. In advance of the statutory arrangements, we have put in place an interim partnership, the South of Scotland Economic Partnership (SOSEP). The Partnership is chaired by Professor Russel Griggs OBE, with Rob Dickson as its chief officer. The Partnership brings together the public sector with the private, third and further and higher education sectors. It will bring a fresh approach to

² Enterprise and Skills Review, Report on Phase 1 (October 2016)
<https://beta.gov.scot/publications/enterprise-skills-review-report-phase-1/>

³ Enterprise and Skills Review, Report on Phase 2 (June 2017)

⁴ Programme for Government 2017/18
<https://beta.gov.scot/publications/nation-ambition-governments-programme-scotland-2017-18/>

economic development in the area and help to prepare the way for the Agency⁵. With a clearly prioritised workplan and additional resources of £10 million in financial year 2018/2019, the Partnership will bring a different approach to economic development, harnessing the enthusiasm for doing things differently, focused on making an impact.

3.7. The Partnership will also listen to the views from this consultation, which will be valuable in providing more information about what the businesses and people of the South want. By the end of its first year, SOSEP will bring a visibly different approach to economic development in the area, with better alignment of activity, clearly influenced by stakeholders and focused on new activities, including those that support the economic resilience of communities.

3.8. This consultation is the next stage on the journey to establishing the Agency. We want to hear your views on what you want the Agency to be able to do to deliver your ambitions for the South. Those views will also help to steer the work of the interim Partnership paving the way for the Agency.

Question 3: What are your ambitions for the future economic success of the South of Scotland?

4. The economic context of the South of Scotland

4.1. The activities and priorities of the Agency need to be shaped by the economic context of the South of Scotland so that it delivers maximum impact with activities specifically tailored to the circumstances of the area.

4.2. The South of Scotland is dominated by small businesses, very often family owned. Self-employment is equally important. Traditional sectors such as farming, forestry, tourism and hospitality make a substantial contribution to the economy. The area has growing strengths in a diverse range of other sectors including energy, construction, logistics, life sciences and creative industries to name but a few. There are, of course, many world class innovative businesses operating in the area both indigenous to the area and also choosing to locate in the area. Business spend on research and innovation is however low, below the national average.

4.3. Community based businesses are a key part of the economic base, recognising the varied social fabric and place, bringing local vibrancy and specialism. This is something that our Strengthening Communities Programme⁶ is already helping to enable.

4.4. The South has significant resources in land assets and energy resources. It is as rich as any part of Scotland in renewable energy resources, with technologies such as on shore wind and hydro capable of making a significant contribution to local and national energy demand. Pumped storage hydro can also play a vital

⁵ <https://news.gov.scot/news/gbp-10m-boost-for-south-of-scotland>

⁶ <https://beta.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/empowering-communities-fund/>

role in providing power when needed, increasing stability and resilience across local and national networks. There remains great potential for further development across the area, in the right places and subject to the relevant planning procedures.

4.5. The South is strategically well-placed with the existing transport connections offering opportunities for the region's future growth. One of the key strategic trunk roads in Scotland, the M74, passes through the region, as do the A7, A68 and A1 providing excellent connections to key markets in England, Central Scotland and beyond. The A75 and A77 strategic routes also play an important role in connecting the ports at Cairnryan with the rest of Scotland. The ports are not only important to the region but are of major importance to Scotland as a whole, operating as a direct link to Ireland with all the economic and social benefits that brings on both sides of the Irish Sea. For rail, the East and West Coast Main Lines both cross the border with England providing connectivity between major UK cities, and the Borders Railway extends the rail network from Edinburgh to Tweedbank. The existing rail links, combined with future opportunities for rail freight, add to the region's assets and future growth possibilities.

4.6. The economy is, of course, shaped by the characteristics of the area's geography and population and has to operate in that context. The South of Scotland is one of the most rural areas of the country, which impacts on physical and digital connectivity. Across the area there are many small towns. It has a low population density which is ageing, with young people leaving the South and not returning. The South has valuable assets in land and natural resources with an opportunity to make much more use of these.

4.7. The South offers considerable strengths and opportunities too. These are vital building blocks for a strong economic future. These include:

- traditional sectors with a reputation for excellence;
- over 10% of Scotland's agriculture, forestry and fishery output;
- a manufacturing heritage with a strong base and active construction sector;
- strengths in renewable energy and significant land assets that offer opportunities for further development;
- strengths in the creative industries – crafts, design, fashion and textiles, visual arts, software and electronic publishing;
- improving physical connectivity – roads and investment in the Borders Railway - and improving digital connectivity with the rollout of superfast broadband;
- a high quality environment with an attractive offering for tourism with world class activities and heritage;
- colleges and universities operating across the area able to offer a variety of opportunities to develop skills;
- diverse towns and villages acting as centres for their local communities and their rural hinterlands with vibrant community businesses;
- many entrepreneurial businesses, sometimes world-leading; and

- a unique strategic location, with long standing links to Ireland, Northern Ireland and England.

Question 4: What are the strengths you would like to see the Agency build on?

Question 5: What are the economic challenges you would like to see the Agency address?

5. Potential Activities for the South of Scotland Enterprise Agency

- 5.1. The potential of the South of Scotland is clear. The Agency needs to be able to take forward activities that drive the economy, sustain and grow communities and capitalise on people and resources. The Agency will have a leading role in creating the conditions for more skilled and better paid job opportunities, help support low carbon activities and support the area to take advantage of international opportunities and technological change.
- 5.2. A range of public, private and third sector organisations already work actively in the South of Scotland to deliver services to businesses, learners and communities. These organisations include Scottish Enterprise (SE), Skills Development Scotland (SDS), the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), Visit Scotland, the local authorities (Dumfries and Galloway Council and Scottish Borders Council), and further and higher education providers. The work of these organisations is valued by those who benefit from their support and contributes to the economic prosperity of the South of Scotland. The Agency offers the opportunity to create a fresh approach to economic development, to complement and harness existing activity to deliver the best outcome for the area.
- 5.3. Scotland's existing enterprise agencies are Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and SE. The legislation establishing the Agency will draw from the legislation establishing those bodies⁷. The legislation will set out the overarching powers of the Agency, enabling it to take forward activities reflecting the circumstances of the South. The high level powers set out in the legislation will be shaped to ensure that the Agency can take forward the range of activities to deliver its high level aims. The legislation will not set out the detail of activities.
- 5.4. The Agency needs to reflect the aspirations of the people of the South and not simply do the same as other agencies have been doing. It needs to work for the South. However, there is value in learning from, and drawing on, the success of other agencies when considering the sort of activities the Agency could carry out. The potential activities captured below are informed by the range of activities carried out by SE and HIE, as well as other public bodies supporting economic development. Those activities also reflect what stakeholders said during the Enterprise and Skills Review.

⁷ Enterprise and New Towns (Scotland) Act 1990 – <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/35/contents>

5.5. The following section seeks views on the potential activities the Agency might undertake, grouped against the three initial overarching aims: to drive forward the economy, to sustain and grow communities, and to capitalise on people and resources. There are specific questions to consider at the end of the section.

Driving forward the economy: potential activities

5.6. This section explores the sorts of activities that the Agency might take forward to drive forward the economy, increasing productivity and creating the conditions of fair work and inclusive growth.

5.7. It is important that the Agency operates with a clear understanding of the assets tailored to the needs of the area's business base, looking at how more businesses benefit from public sector support to contribute to the area's inclusive growth and create opportunities. Its decisions need to be supported by a well-informed evidence base.

5.8. The Agency will need to have a clear vision for the area, providing strong regional leadership working with locally elected leaders and other key stakeholders. Clarity of purpose would help to align people behind a clear direction. The Agency could act as a voice of the South of Scotland, ensuring that it is heard in national debates. In identifying areas of regional strengths, it could provide sector-specific support.

5.9. There is a range of activity that the Agency could undertake to help specific businesses across the South of Scotland to reach their potential, recognising the nature of the area's business base with many family owned and micro-businesses. Activities to support business sustainability and growth might include:

- joining up existing support for business, working with other organisations offering support;
- having an 'account management' system for supporting individual businesses, in the model of SE and HIE;
- setting up business networks and clusters;
- growing the local supply chain;
- providing specific support tailored to small and micro businesses;
- working with businesses to build capacity and confidence so small and medium sized businesses are able to seek investment from bodies such as the Scottish National Investment Bank;
- encouraging greater business spend on research and development;
- developing rural business leaders;
- targeting support for under-represented groups;
- working with Scottish Development International to support import and export; and
- working with the existing enterprise agencies where services are best delivered on a national basis; for example, the Scottish Manufacturing Advice Service and Regional Selective Assistance.

Sustaining and growing communities: potential activities

5.10. This section explores the sorts of activities that the Agency might take forward to sustain and grow communities, supporting them achieve their economic potential. This builds on our existing commitment to empowering communities via the Regeneration Strategy⁸, the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2105⁹, and our Fairer Scotland Action Plan¹⁰.

5.11. We think that there is a range of activity that the Agency could deliver to build the economic strength and resilience of communities. We recognise that, in rural areas, the integration of economic and community development is important to the long term success of the area. The inclusive growth diagnostic provides a tool for the Agency to understand what is preventing communities from accessing employment opportunities. Activities taken forward could include:

- Further supporting communities to grow their capacity and to play a greater role in the long term development of their area, including acquiring specific assets and opportunities to generate income and deliver services;
- Supporting the growth and development of the social enterprise sector, identifying specific geographical and thematic opportunities, including the potential for increased innovation and more effective joint working;
- Supporting community based businesses, reflecting the traditions, skills and aspirations of different places;
- Working with local authorities and other partners supporting regeneration and place based activities; and
- Responding to the inclusive growth diagnostic, addressing the things that are getting in the way of economic opportunities.

Capitalising on people and resources: potential activities

5.12. This section explores the sorts of activities that the Agency might take forward to capitalise on the people and the resources of the South of Scotland.

5.13. The Agency will be able to focus on the needs of the South of Scotland. In looking at how to ensure people in the South have the skills to make the most of future opportunities, the Agency will want to work closely with existing organisations such as Skills Development Scotland, the Scottish Funding Council and education institutions, including colleges and universities. The Agency should forge productive relationships between these organisations and ensure that their provision planning and resource allocation becomes better aligned, more coherent and subject to more consistent performance management.

5.14. Working with skills organisations and skills providers, the Agency could:

- support the development of skills in the South of Scotland;
- align skills needs with skills provision;

⁸ <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/achieving-sustainable-future-regeneration-strategy/>

⁹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2015/6/part/5>

¹⁰ <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-action-plan/>

- work to increase economic opportunities for young people;
- work to ensure that the existing workforce have the opportunity to develop their skills and to access on-going training to enhance their skills;
- ensure a workforce that can make the most of future economic opportunities, including building digital skills; and
- help business benefit from the Scottish Government's commitment to its expansion and diversification of apprenticeships¹¹.

5.15. The Agency will also look at how best to promote the area's assets and resources, maximising the impact of investment in the areas. This could include activities such as:

- developing business spaces fit for the growing businesses of the 21st century;
- supporting enabling business infrastructure;
- maintaining an asset register for the South of Scotland to record the economic assets of the area to help inform decision making;
- supporting the development and regeneration of towns and town centres;
- working to attract inward investment;
- working with organisations such as the Scottish Futures Trust to influence the national infrastructure investment plan;
- developing a digital economy, improving the take up of digital technologies and ensuring business make the most of those new technologies; and
- fostering partnerships to promote the South of Scotland as a tourism destination, through digital and traditional methods.

Question 6 – What currently works well in the South of Scotland?

Question 7 – What would you add or take away from the potential activities that the Agency could carry out across the three areas:

- a) drive forward the economy;***
- b) sustain communities; and***
- c) capitalise on people and resources***

Question 8: What would you prioritise as the key areas of activity for the Agency?

Question 9: What specific things could the Agency do to help you, your business, your sector or your community?

6. Effective boundaries

6. Phase 2 of the Enterprise and Skills Review explored the most appropriate geographic boundary in which the new organisation should operate. In discussions with stakeholders, a consensus emerged that the new organisation should operate in the local authority areas of the Scottish Borders and Dumfries and Galloway. This reflects the economic context and the similarity of challenges faced in those two areas, challenges which present differently in other local

¹¹ <https://beta.gov.scot/news/modern-apprenticeship-target-announced/>

authority areas. It also ensures clarity for those using services, and ensuring a focus on tackling the specific challenges of the area.

- 6.1. With those boundaries, the Agency will operate across an area of over 4,300 square miles which stretches the breadth of Scotland from the North Sea in the east to the Irish Sea in the west - coast to coast a distance of over 150 miles. With a population of 264,000, the area is one of the most rural regions in the United Kingdom.
- 6.2. The Agency will need to establish effective relationships outside its specific geographic boundary to enable it to support work that benefits the economy of the South of Scotland. This means that the South of Scotland will benefit from national support and opportunities, and the Agency will be able to work with other local authorities.

Question 10: What could the Agency do outwith its boundaries working with other local authorities or with agencies like Highlands and Islands Enterprise to support specific projects which benefit the South of Scotland and with national agencies?

7. Location of the new Agency

- 7.1. It is vital to ensure that the Agency is accessible to businesses and communities across the South of Scotland with its headquarters and leadership clearly based in the South. We would welcome views on how best to deliver accessibility. For example:
- the Agency could have minimal physical presence with its services delivered digitally across the area;
 - there could be a single central headquarters from which all services could be provided;
 - the Agency could take the form of a hub and spoke model – with its larger headquarters complemented by smaller offices in locations across the area;
 - locations could depend on the activities being provided; or
 - the Agency could be entirely co-located with other public sector organisations.
- 7.2 We would welcome views on the criteria that should be used to inform a decision about location. In deciding the location of other bodies in the past, a range of criteria has been considered. The criteria this time might include: connectivity and accessibility, proximity to key populations, proximity to other services; potential impact and benefits to local economy; or availability of suitable premises. Wherever the location, the Agency will want to make best use of technology. The legislation will not prescribe the location or the structure of the Agency. However, it will make clear that the Agency's headquarters need to be in its area of operation, clearly rooted in the South and led from the area in which it operates.

7.3 It is important that the Agency benefits from the expertise of people in the South of Scotland and that people from the South want to engage to lead and direct it over the years to come. The legislation will set out that the appointments to the Board will be subject to the Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies in Scotland¹² put in place by the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland. The Agency should have a Board which is accessible, transparent, visible and engaged with stakeholders across the area, and which properly reflects the businesses and communities of the South, understanding living and working in the area.

Question 11: Which option, either from the list above or your own suggestion, do you think offers the best way to ensure the Agency is accessible to all across the South of Scotland?

Question 12: Which criteria should be used in reaching a decision about the location of the Agency?

Question 13: If you were to use the services of this Agency, what factors are important to you in terms of reaching it? (This might relate to the location itself, to transportation links, or to proximity to other services, or digital delivery, for example.)

Question 14: What sort of people should be on the Board of the Agency and what sorts of skills and expertise should they have?

8 Other issues

8.1 In this consultation paper, we are seeking views on a wide range of issues and this section poses some more general questions. But we do not want to constrain the discussion. If there are other areas you would like to raise, we look forward to hearing about them.

Question 15: We know that young people are less likely to stay in or move to the South of Scotland than they are other parts of the country. Do you have any comments on things the Agency could do to meet the interests of children and young people?

Question 16: In delivering opportunity and growth in the South of Scotland, how can the Agency:

- promote equality for people who share one or more protected characteristic as defined by the Equality Act 2010¹³;***
- combat discrimination; and***
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not?***

¹² <http://www.publicappointments.org/publications/110/code-of-practice>

¹³ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>

Question 17: Do you have any other comments on how the Agency might address specific needs?¹⁴

Question 18: We want to make sure that the Agency works effectively with a wide range of key stakeholders/partner agencies to ensure that inclusive growth also enables positive social and environmental outcomes. Do you have any comments on how this should work in practice?

Question 19: Do you have any other thoughts on powers that the Agency will need?

Question 20: Is there anything else you wish to say about the operation of the Agency?

9. Responding to this consultation

9.1. We are inviting responses to this consultation by 7 June 2018.

9.2. Please respond to this consultation using the Scottish Government's consultation platform, Citizen Space. You can view and respond to this consultation online at <https://consult.gov.scot/economic-policy-unit/new-enterprise-agency-for-the-south-of-scotland>.

9.3. You can save and return to your responses while the consultation is still open. Please ensure that consultation responses are submitted before the closing date of 7 June 2018.

9.4. If you are unable to respond online, please complete the Respondent Information Form (see "Handling your Response" below) and send by post to:

Jenny Bann
Directorate for Economic Development
Scottish Government
5 Atlantic Quay
150 Broomielaw
Glasgow
G2 8LU

or by email to: south_scotland_consultation@gov.scot

Handling your response

9.5. If you respond using Citizen Space (<http://consult.gov.scot>) you will be directed to the Respondent Information Form. Please indicate how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are happy for your response to be published.

9.6. If you are unable to respond via Citizen Space, please complete and return the Respondent Information Form (attached in annex) included in this document. If

¹⁴ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/part/11/chapter/1>

you ask for your response not to be published, we will regard it as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly.

9.7. All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Government is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002¹⁵ and would therefore have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.

Next steps in the process

9.8. Where respondents have given permission for their response to be made public, and after we have checked that they contain no potentially defamatory material, responses will be made available to the public at <http://consult.gov.scot>. If you use Citizen Space to respond, you will receive a copy of your response via email.

9.9. Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence to help us. Responses will be published where we have been given permission to do so.

Comments and complaints

9.10. If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to south_scotland_consultation@gov.scot.

¹⁵ <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Law/FOISA.aspx>



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RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note this form **must** be completed and returned with your response.

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

- Individual
 Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

Phone number

Address

Postcode

Email

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

- Publish response with name
 Publish response only (without name)
 Do not publish response

Information for organisations:

The option 'Publish response only (without name)' is available for individual respondents only. If this option is selected, the organisation name will still be published.

If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

- Yes
 No



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This document is also available on The Scottish Government website:
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