

Consultation Response

Proposal to designate two historic marine protected areas

November 2019



Introduction

The Law Society of Scotland is the professional body for over 12,000 Scottish solicitors. With our overarching objective of leading legal excellence, we strive to excel and to be a world-class professional body, understanding and serving the needs of our members and the public. We set and uphold standards to ensure the provision of excellent legal services and ensure the public can have confidence in Scotland's solicitor profession.

We have a statutory duty to work in the public interest, a duty which we are strongly committed to achieving through our work to promote a strong, varied and effective solicitor profession working in the interests of the public and protecting and promoting the rule of law. We seek to influence the creation of a fairer and more just society through our active engagement with the Scottish and United Kingdom Governments, Parliaments, wider stakeholders and our membership.

Our Marine Law sub-committee welcomes the opportunity to consider and respond to the Scottish Government's consultation on a *Proposal to designate two historic marine protected areas*¹. We do not seek to answer the consultation questions but have the following comments to put forward for consideration.

General comments

We note that maps of the relevant areas are available. In the interests of accessibility of the law and clarity and certainty for individuals and businesses, it would be useful to have maps of the areas concerned appended to any designation order made in respect of these areas. This would allow the Marine Protected Areas to be easily identified, while the more detailed definition is that with full legal force. It is important that any maps and descriptions are sufficiently detailed as to allow the area to be clearly identified.

For further information, please contact:

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¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/proposal-designate-two-historic-marine-protected-areas/pages/2/>