



Law Society
of Scotland

Consultation response

A National Mission with Local Impact - draft
infrastructure investment plan 2021-2022 to
2025-2026: consultation

November 2020



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 Environmental Law Sub-committee welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Scottish Government's consultation on *A National Mission with Local Impact - draft infrastructure investment plan 2021-2022 to 2025-2026*¹. We have the following comments to put forward for consideration.

General comments

We note the proposals in relation to amending the definition of 'infrastructure' to include 'natural infrastructure' and support this in the context of this plan (i.e. infrastructure investment). We consider, however, that careful consideration would be required if 'natural infrastructure' is to be included in the definition of 'infrastructure' used in a wider context to ensure that unintended consequences are not created, including the potential for overlaps between funding sources.

In relation to assessing the carbon impact of future Infrastructure Investment Plans, we consider that the suggested approach is proportionate.

For further information, please contact:

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¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-mission-local-impact-draft-infrastructure-investment-plan-scotland-202122-202526/>