



Law Society
of Scotland

Consultation response

Establishing a Scottish Nitrogen Balance Sheet

January 2021



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 *Establishing a Scottish Nitrogen Balance Sheet*¹. We have the following comments to put forward for consideration.

General comments

We note that the consultation does not set out whether there is expected to be any additional reporting or monitoring obligations required so as to produce the Scottish Nitrogen Balance Sheet (SNBS). For example, we consider that a source of data for the SNBS is likely to be from the system of Nitrate Vulnerable Zones on farmland in Scotland. This currently involves farmers capturing and reporting data. We would favour simplicity in any additional reporting or monitoring obligations so as not to increase the burden on individuals and businesses to provide data.

For further information, please contact:

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¹ <https://consult.gov.scot/energy-and-climate-change-directorate/scottish-nitrogen-balance-sheet/>