



Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) will be Scottish Ministers' long term spatial plan for Scotland in 2050, which also sets out our national planning policies. It will have the status of 'development plan' for decision making purposes, meaning it will be used for day to day decision making on planning applications.

Once adopted, NPF4 will replace National Planning Framework 3 and Scottish Planning Policy.

NPF4 will be subject to extensive public and stakeholder engagement in its preparation. It will also be considered by the Scottish Parliament and is ultimately subject to parliamentary approval before it can be adopted.

What is Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)?

A range of statutory and non-statutory assessments will inform the preparation of NPF4. We will integrate these assessment requirements wherever possible into the development of NPF4 policy. We will also co-ordinate the preparation of the evidence base across the individual assessments to minimise duplication, sharing information and links between the different assessment topics and making connections. In light of the statutory and non-statutory reporting requirements for individual assessments, we will ensure clear findings are reached for each of the assessments, with summary narrative which aims to draw together and consider in a holistic way the key findings under the impact assessment themes of Environment; Society and Equalities; and Economy. Outputs will include an Environmental Report which meets our statutory reporting obligations under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

What Impact Assessments are being considered?

ENVIRONMENT	
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	<p>Identifies the likelihood of significant environmental effects (both positive and negative) as a result of the plan, alongside opportunities for mitigating any negative ones and enhancing any positives, and is in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2005/15/contents)</p> <p>The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 requires Scottish Ministers to bring forward new provisions on the assessment of the likely health effects for national or a major developments. To inform this work we will consider the likely health effects of proposed national developments as part of the SEA process.</p>
Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA)	<p>Helps identify the impact of a plan on a Natura site under the protections outlined in the EU Habitats Directive and related regulations. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm</p>
Life-cycle Green House Gas emissions of national developments.	<p>Fulfils our statutory obligations under the Town and Country (Scotland) Planning Act 2019 to undertake an assessment of the likely impact of each proposed national development's lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.</p>
SOCIETY & EQUALITIES	
Human rights	<p>Ensures there is no disproportionate impact upon the most vulnerable and ensures human rights legislation is adhered to. (https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cescr.aspx)</p>
Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)	<p>Provides an assessment of the impact of applying a proposed new or revised policy or practice. Equality legislation covers the protected characteristics of: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, sex, sexual orientation and religion and belief.</p>
Child's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA)	<p>Provides evidence that proper consideration has been given to the impact that a policy/measure will have on children and young people up to the age of 18.</p>
Fairer Scotland Duty	<p>Helps deliver fairer outcomes for Scotland's people through the active consideration of socio-economic inequality issues, such as low income and area deprivation, during the plan-making process.</p>
Island Communities Impact Assessment	<p>Ensures that the needs of island communities are considered in the development of any plans and ensures compliance with the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2018/282/contents/made)</p>
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	<p>Helps to identify and mitigate any risks to privacy in compliance with data protection laws.</p>
ECONOMY	
Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA)	<p>BRIsAs help to assess the likely costs, benefits and risks of any proposed plan and takes account of the five principles of better regulation – transparency, accountability, proportionality, consistency and that regulation is targeted where appropriate.</p>

What are the key stages of IIA?

To ensure our assessment work is aligned with the NPF4 preparation process, we have developed the following project plan:

NPF 4 preparation process

Integrated Impact Assessment stage

Baseline data-gathering

Early engagement, including stakeholder engagement events / evidence gathering on shape and scope of policies

Identify individual assessment requirements and screen for likely significant effects

Publish Scoping Report and invite comments including from SEA Consultation Authorities

NPF 4 – Plan preparation

IIA – assessment stage

Identify and assess likely significant effects of “reasonable alternatives”

Emerging assessment findings to inform plan preparation.

Consult on draft NPF4 and introduce to Parliament

Consult on IIA report(s)

Analyse comments received and finalise NPF4
Finalise BRIA and publish Post-Adoption Statement

How can I get involved?

As part of our early engagement with stakeholders and the public we are inviting information on relevant baseline information to inform the IIA. We have also prepared a series of engagement questions. Any and all comments are welcome at this stage.

There will also be opportunity to comment on an IIA scoping report, which will include an SEA scoping report, setting out the draft baseline information which we propose to carry forward to the assessment stages, as well as the proposed assessment framework. The SEA scoping report will meet our statutory obligations under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act. Comments received at scoping stage will be taken into account as the assessment is progressed.

We will consult on the draft NPF4, and IIA report(s). All comments received will be taken into account before the NPF4 is finalised.

We will prepare a finalised Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment to accompany the NPF4. A Post-Adoption Statement will be published as soon as reasonably practicable after the NPF4 has been adopted.

How will the IIA findings be reported?

To ensure our statutory and other IIA reporting requirements are met, we are proposing to publish a SEA Environmental Report alongside combined IIA report(s). We will include summary narrative which aims to draw together and consider in a holistic way the key findings under the impact assessment themes, whilst ensuring clear findings are reached for each of the individual assessments.

Keep in touch

For more information and other resources



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