

Glen Earrach Pumped Storage Hydro Development Additional Information — June 2026

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Background

In March 2025, Glen Earrach Energy Limited ("the Applicant") submitted an application for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and deemed planning permission under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (the "Section 36 Application") to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) of the Scottish Government.

The Section 36 Application sought consent for the construction and operation of a new pumped storage hydro scheme on the Balmacaan Estate, to be known as the Glen Earrach PSH (the "Proposed Development"). The Proposed Development will have a storage capacity of approximately 34,000 megawatt hours (MWh) subject to the final configuration of the Headpond, Loch nam Breac Dearga. It would have approximately 2,000 megawatts (MW) of installed electrical pumping capacity and 1,800 MW of installed electrical generating capacity (both subject to final pump-turbine selection).

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) was provided with the application, detailing the results of a series of environmental studies undertaken to determine the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on the environment under the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (the "EIA Regulations").

The Applicant has submitted Additional Information on two previous occasions: in June 2025 and August 2025. This submission constitutes further Additional Information.

1.2 Purpose and Scope of This Submission

Since the previous Additional Information submissions, further queries and consultation responses have been received from The Highland Council (THC), NatureScot, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), the Ness District Salmon Fishery Board (NDSFB), community councils and other consultees.

In addition, the ECU issued a written request on 31 March 2026 for submissions on the implications of the decision of the Inner House of the Court of Session in *Raeshaw Farms Ltd v Scottish Ministers* [2026] CSIH 10.

This document provides the Applicant's responses to these matters. The submission content has been grouped into the following categories:

- Consultation responses;
- Urquhart Bay Wood SAC;
- River Moriston SAC;
- EIAR updates; and
- Response to ECU correspondence on the *Raeshaw Farms* judgment.

1.3 Consultation Responses

Material comprising responses to consultation comments and objections received from statutory and non-statutory consultees following the EIAR submission and previous Additional Information submissions.

The documents are as follows:

- **AI_3_24** - THC Traffic and Transport (September 2025);
- **AI_3_22** - THC Biodiversity Net Gain (September 2025);
- **AI_3_23** - THC Flood Risk (October 2025);
- **AI_3_14** - THC Key Consultee Issues / GEE Response (January 2026);
- **AI_3_20** - SEPA-THC Flood Risk (September 2025);
- **AI_3_19** - SEPA-THC Flood Risk (October 2025);
- **AI_3_30** – NDSFB - August 2025 and October 2025 Objection Response (May 2026);
- **AI_3_21** - Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council Response (June 2025);
- **AI_3_12** - Glen Urquhart Community Council Response (October 2025);
- **AI_3_1** - Community / GEE Commitments (November 2025);
- **AI_3_13** - Jacobite Cruises, Conditions for Objection Retraction (November 2025); and
- **AI_3_25** - Woodland Trust, Objection Response (November 2025).

1.4 Urquhart Bay Wood SAC

Material comprising responses to NatureScot consultation response on Urquhart Bay Wood SAC.

The documents relating to this are:

- **AI_3_18** - Urquhart Bay Wood SAC Ecology Note (February 2026);
- **AI_3_2 to AI_3_11** - Inundation and Drying Event Analysis Packs A1 to A10 (February 2026), to be read alongside AI_3_18;
- **AI_3_26** - Urquhart Bay Wood SAC, Response to NatureScot, Summary Note (March 2026);
- **AI_3_27** - Urquhart Bay Wood SAC, Response to NatureScot, Technical Annex (March 2026);
- **AI_3_32** - Urquhart Bay Wood SAC, Response to NatureScot May 2026; and
- **AI_3_43** - Urquhart Bay Wood SAC, UBW submission for the North East Lobe June 2026.

1.5 River Moriston SAC

Material comprising responses to NatureScot consultation response on the River Moriston SAC.

The documents relating to this are:

- **AI_3_16** - Consolidated February 2026 River Moriston SAC pack for Points a and b (superseded);
- **AI_3_28** - Consolidated March 2026 River Moriston SAC pack for Points a and b (supersedes AI_3_16);
- **AI_3_15** - Response on River Moriston SAC Point c (February 2026);
- **AI_3_17** - Response on River Moriston SAC Points d and e (February 2026); and
- **AI_3_42** - River Moriston SAC: May 2026 Response to NatureScot Further Advice.

1.6 EIAR Updates

The documents relating to this are:

- **AI_3_29** - Updated Cumulative Traffic and Transport Assessment; and
- **AI_3_31** - Chapter 3 evolution of design – short update to section 3.4.9 of EIA Report submitted in March 2025.

1.7 Response to ECU correspondence on the *Raeshaw Farms* Judgment

The Applicant's response to the ECU's written request of 31 March 2026. The documents relating to this are:

- **AI_3_33** - Raeshaw Farms Judgment response paper, addressing the ECU questions and setting out the Applicant's framing; and
- **AI_3_34** - Grid Connection Assessment, comprising a context document and supporting technical notes as follows:
 - **AI_3_35**, Noise and Vibration
 - **AI_3_36**, Cultural Heritage
 - **AI_3_37**, Ornithology
 - **AI_3_38**, Traffic and Transport
 - **AI_3_39**, Geology and Ground Conditions
 - **AI_3_40**, Terrestrial Ecology
 - **AI_3_41**, Water Environment, Flood Risk and Water Resources

1.8 Status and Context

The Additional Information contained within this document package supplements the original EIA Report dated March 2025 and the previous Additional Information submissions and does not alter the conclusions of the environmental assessment.

The information is provided to assist Scottish Ministers and consultees in their consideration of the Section 36 Application. All technical assessments and responses contained herein have been prepared by suitably qualified professionals.