

# Response ID ANON-VAAH-APDG-V

Submitted to **Island Communities Impact Assessments Guidance and Toolkit**

Submitted on **2020-11-09 22:50:42**

## Flowchart

### 1 Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? - The flowchart explains the ICIA process well:**

Agree

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? - The flowchart is easy to follow:**

Agree

**Please add any comments here:**

## Introduction

### 2 Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? After reading the introduction:

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? After reading the introduction: - I have a clear understanding of the purpose of ICIA's:**

Strongly agree

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? After reading the introduction: - I have a clear understanding of the legislative background of ICIA's:**

Agree

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? After reading the introduction: - It is clear where I can access further sources of information relevant to ICIA's:**

Agree

**Please add any comments here:**

The introduction provides helpful context and is clear and easy to read. There is a strong emphasis placed on recognising the uniqueness of different island situations, listening to and consulting with communities, and, importantly, reporting back. This is welcome and if further reinforced to ensure the engagement of island communities is consistent and not optional, could go some way to ensuring the voice of island communities is strengthened.

Having a dedicated Islands Team in place that is readily accessible for further information and guidance will make a real difference to those conducting an ICIA. Guidance on effective community consultation as well as building and sourcing island data would be useful areas to develop further. Many island communities will have their own development plans in place which is often a good starting point for understanding the local situation and priorities.

## Step by step guide to carrying out an ICIA

### 3 Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? - The steps outlining the ICIA process are clear:**

Agree

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? - The steps provide all the information needed to carry out an ICIA:**

Disagree

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? - I would be able to successfully complete an ICIA by following these steps:**

Not sure

### 4 If applicable, how can the steps be improved?

**Please add any comments here:**

The steps themselves are presented clearly. The section on 'questions to consider' is helpful and could be expanded to reflect further the strategic objectives within the National Islands Plan.

Difficulty in carrying out the steps may arise where time, budget and access to the necessary tools is limited e.g. knowledge of island communities and how to reach them, island data and evidence. Also, the capacity of unpaid islanders to participate in or respond to frequent consultations may be limited. A coordinated approach to strategic gathering of island data could aid and inform effective assessment of priorities and targeting of investment by Relevant Authorities.

On 'publishing your ICIA' it is vital that island communities have easy access to ICIA's and the information behind them. SIF would like to see further detail of how island communities can access the information and stay informed.

## ICIA template

**5 Would you use the ICIA template when carrying out an ICIA?**

Not sure

**Please add any comments here:**

**Annual Reporting Return Template**

**6 Is it clear from the guidance how to complete an Annual Reporting Return?**

Not Answered

**Please add any comments here:**

**7 Would you use the template when carrying out an Annual Reporting Return?**

Not Answered

**Please add any comments here:**

**Guidance and toolkit**

**8 Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? - It is clear from the guidance what an ICIA is:**

Agree

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? - It is clear from the guidance how to carry out an ICIA:**

Agree

**9 Overall, how useful is this guidance?**

Useful

**10 We are considering supplementing the guidance with a number of case studies which would highlight how island communities can be unfairly disadvantaged by a policy, strategy or service. How helpful would the inclusion of case studies be for you or your organisation?**

Very helpful

**Please add any comments here:**

SIF has a number of examples highlighted by members.

**11 Do you have any further comments or suggestions?**

**Please add any comments here:**

Island communities themselves have taken part in shaping the National Islands Plan and are eager to see the next part of the journey, the ICIA's, succeed and make a tangible difference. Having the guidance and toolkit in place is a significant step and SIF welcomes the opportunity to work with the Islands Team and others to develop a robust conduit with island communities.

The underlying constraint is that island communities themselves cannot trigger an ICIA and may not consistently be engaged in the process by those conducting an ICIA.

SIF would welcome the development of guidance for island communities themselves both in terms of establishing a suitable route to ensure that they are adequately informed, consulted and engaged, but also on how island communities might be proactive in making the case to relevant bodies for an ICIA to be undertaken. For example, guidance on how to identify and assess impacts on their communities in the first instance, what steps should be taken to make the case to other bodies in order to trigger an ICIA as well as how to appeal decisions.

We would also support the option to expand the list of Relevant Authorities, to extend this to all bodies in receipt of public funding or undertaking island functions and services on behalf of UK, Scottish or local government. This is particularly relevant in terms of travel, for companies carrying out Passenger Service Obligation routes. It is not only government bodies that have an impact on islands but also utilities companies, communications providers, fuel, postage, transport, regulatory bodies etc. Charities, social enterprise and development bodies also may be funded to provide a Scotland-wide service but in reality, islands are often excluded due to the additional costs of carrying out those national services on remote islands.

**About you**

**What is your name?**

**Name:**

Camille Dressler

**What is your email address?**

**Email:**

info@scottish-islands-federation.co.uk

**Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?**

Organisation

**What is your organisation?**

**Organisation:**

Scottish Islands Federation

**The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:**

Publish response with name

**We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?**

Yes

**I confirm that I have read the privacy policy and consent to the data I provide being used as set out in the policy.**

I consent

**Evaluation**

**Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)**

**Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:**

Very dissatisfied

**Please enter comments here.:**

**Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:**

Very dissatisfied

**Please enter comments here.:**