



# ANIMAL CONCERN

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18th October 2006

Ross Finnie MSP,  
Minister for Rural Affairs,  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

Dear Minister,

The Scottish Exec Consultations notice issued on 25/9/06 stated that the SEEGEN General Licenses review was due to start on October 1st. I have not received any paperwork on this and my e-mail to SEERAD has bounced back saying "Please note we are experiencing a high level of enquiries and I regret that we can not guarantee immediate responses."

This is the third or fourth time in two years that the SEEGEN General Licenses review has been announced without anything actually happening.

This indicates to me that SEERAD is in total turmoil and unable to fulfil its commitments. As the Minister in charge you are ultimately responsible for the seeming total inability of SEERAD to carry out its work. Can you tell me if this is due to a lack of resources or simply incompetence on the part of either the Civil Servants employed to run SEERAD or the politicians entrusted with control of the Department?

In recent weeks the Executive has started pumping out information puffs at a rate of knots. These are highly positive documents extolling the great work being carried out by the Executive. Someone more cynical than me might question this use of public funds in the run up to a Scottish General Election.

Among the several "information" e-mails I received last week was one signed by you boasting about the consultation on the proposed new marine national park. Is this consultation real or, like the SEEGEN General Licenses consultation, a figment of someone's imagination?

Instead of creating what looks like party political spam might I suggest you deal with the obvious very real problems within SEERAD before it ceases to function altogether.

Yours sincerely,

John F. Robins