

APPENDIX 5.2: IEMA QUALITY MARK

IEMA Quality Mark Check	Response
COM3: EIA Regulatory Compliance¹	
A) Does the EIA Report contain a clear section, or sections, providing a description of the development comprising information on the site, design and size of the development during construction and operation?	Yes – Volume 2, Chapter 3 Project Description
B) Does the EIA Report contain a section, or sections, that outline of the main alternatives studied by the developer and an indication of the main reasons for his choice, taking into account the environmental effects?	Yes – Volume 2, Chapter 4 Site Selection Process and Alternatives
C) Does the EIA Report contain a clear section, or sections, that provides the data required to identify and assess the main effects which the development is likely to have on the environment?	Yes – Volume 2, technical chapters 7 to 13
D) In the light of the development being assessed has the EIA Report identified, described and assessed effects on the following sub-criteria: - Population - Fauna & Flora - Soil - Water - Air - Climatic factors - Landscape - Cultural Heritage - Material Assets - Other	Yes – Volume 2, technical chapters 7 to 13 (unless scoped out, in the case of population, air, climatic factors and material assets)
E) Does the EIA Report attempt to set out the interaction between the factors set out under COM3 D) above?	Yes – Volume 2, Chapter 14 Cumulative Effects
F) Does the EIA Report contain a section, or sections, that describe the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment, including as reasonably required: direct, indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium, long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects?	Yes – Volume 2, technical chapters 7 to 13 and Chapter 15 Summary of Effects
G) Does the EIA Report contain a clear section, or sections, that provides a description of the measures envisaged in order to avoid, reduce and, if possible, remedy significant adverse effects?	Yes – Volume 2, Chapter 16 Schedule of Environmental Mitigation
H) Has a Non-Technical Summary been produced containing an outline of the information mentioned in COM3 A) to G) above?	Yes – Volume 1, Non-Technical Summary
I) Does the EIA Report contain a section, or sections, that outline any difficulties encountered by the developer in compiling the information presented in the EIA Report?	Yes – discussed within each of the Volume 2, technical chapters 7 to 13
COM4: EIA Context & Influence	
A) Scoping	

¹ A number of the criteria under this Commitment cover similar issues to criteria set out in the other three Commitments, below. Where this occurs IEMA recognise that there will inevitably be some overlap between the criteria. However, the assessment of the criteria under this Commitment is focussed on the presence or absence of the issue, whereas the assessment of similar criteria, within the other three Commitments, will focus on the quality of the consideration of the issue in question.

IEMA Quality Mark Check	Response
i) Has the EIA Report been compiled in accordance with a Scoping Opinion if one has been issued	Yes – Scoping Opinion provided by Aberdeenshire Council, October 2024
ii) Has the EIA Report clearly stated what environmental topics will be addressed and how this decision was reached?	Yes – Volume 2, Chapter 6 Scope and Consultation
iii) Are the main sensitive receptors and their locations clearly identified with an explanation of the risks posed from the development?	Yes – Volume 2, technical chapters 8 to 14
iv) Does the EIA Report identify the environmental topics, raised during the scoping process, that will not be assessed and explain why they are not being considered further?	Yes – Volume 2, Chapter 6 Scope and Consultation
v) For those environmental topics scoped into the EIA, is it clear that the assessment on sub-issues relevant to the proposed development effects on each topic?	Yes – Volume 2, technical chapters 7 to 13, Scope of the Assessment section
B) Alternatives, including iterative design	
i) Does the EIA Report set out the main alternatives considered during the development of the proposal?	Yes – Volume 2, Chapter 4 Site Selection Process and Alternatives
ii) Are the main reasons, environmental or otherwise, for the selection of the proposal over distinct alternatives and design iterations easily identifiable?	
iii) Does the EIA Report clearly indicate how the EIA process, environmental effects and consultee responses influenced the iterative design process that led to the proposed development?	Yes – within Volume 2, Chapter 4 Site Selection Process and Alternatives, and where relevant, within Volume 2, technical chapters 7 to 13
C) Consultation	
i) Does the description of any consultation undertaken include an indication of those contacted, including statutory and non-statutory consultees, and the public?	Yes – within Volume 2, Chapter 6 Scope and Consultation and where relevant, within Volume 2, technical chapters 7 to 13
ii) Does the main text of the EIA Report provide a summary of the main issues, pertinent to the EIA, raised by consultees?	Yes – Volume 2, technical chapters 7 to 13
iii) Does the EIA Report provide an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including comparison of the environmental effects?	Yes – Volume 2, Chapter 4 Site Selection Process and Alternatives
iv) Does the EIA Report set out if any of the issues pertinent to the EIA raised by consultees will not be dealt with in the EIA Report? If so, is clear justification set out as to why the issue was scoped out?	Yes – Volume 2, Chapter 6 Scope and Consultation
COM5: EIA Content	
A) Baseline	

IEMA Quality Mark Check	Response
i) Does the EIA Report describe the condition of those aspects of the environment that are likely to be significantly affected by the development?	Yes – Volume 2, technical chapters 7 to 13
ii) Is the 'sensitivity' ² of the baseline environment clearly evaluated?	Yes – Volume 2, technical chapters 7 to 13
iii) Where limitations in the baseline information exist, which could influence the assessment findings, are they easily identifiable?	Yes – within Volume 2, technical chapters 7 to 13
B) Assessment	
i) Are the methods for establishing the 'magnitude' of effects on the receiving environment clearly defined?	Yes – within Volume 2, Chapter 5 EIA Process and Methodology, and where relevant, within Volume 2, technical chapters 7 to 13
ii) Where the EIA Report sets out a generic method for evaluating significance, is this applied throughout the EIA Report? Where an over-arching approach is not followed are the specific methods used to evaluate significance for each environmental topic clearly justified?	
iii) Does the evaluation of significance consider the different stages of development (construction, operation) and relate the effects identified to the condition of the baseline environment?	
iv) Does the EIA Report give appropriate prominence to both positive and negative effects relative to their significance?	
v) Does the EIA Report identify the significance of effects that are anticipated to remain following the successful implementation of any mitigation described in the EIA Report?	
vi) Is it clear that the EIA has considered inter-relationships in order to identify secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects?	
C) Environmental Mitigation & Management	
i) Does the EIA Report describe the measures proposed to be implemented to avoid, reduce, or offset significant adverse effects of the proposed development?	Yes – within Volume 2, technical chapters 7 to 13 and Chapter 16 Schedule of Environmental Mitigation
ii) Is an attempt to indicate the effectiveness of the influence of the stated mitigation measures on the significance of the environmental effects provided?	Yes – within Volume 2, technical chapters 7 to 13
iii) Does the EIA Report set out how mitigation measures are to be secured and implemented and with whom the responsibilities for their delivery lies?	Yes – within Volume 2, technical chapters 7 to 13 and Chapter 16 Schedule of Environmental Mitigation
COM6: EIA Presentation	
A) EIA Report Quality	

² The terms 'sensitivity' (COM5 A ii)) and 'magnitude' (COM5 B i)) are used as generic descriptors of the multitude of criteria that are used in EIA practice to evaluate significance.

IEMA Quality Mark Check	Response
i) Does the EIA Report make effective use of maps, figures, tables and diagrams? In particular covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the location of the site, its boundary and site layout; - operational appearance (where available); - main environmental receptors; and - environmental effects (where visual representation is appropriate). 	Yes – Volume 3, Figures, and where relevant to technical reports within Volume 4, Technical Appendices
ii) Is the proposed development site clearly described?	Yes – Volume 2, Chapter 3 Project Description
iii) Are the anticipated timescales of construction, operation and (where appropriate) decommissioning of the proposed development clearly set out in the main text?	Yes
iv) Is the EIA Report presented in a manner that would allow a member of the public to logically locate the environmental information they were seeking?	Yes
v) Are technical terms kept to a minimum, with a glossary (/ list of acronyms) provided?	Yes
vi) Is the length of the main text of the EIA Report appropriate to the: proposed development, sensitivity of the receiving environment and significant environmental effects identified?	Yes
B) Non-Technical Summary (NTS)	
i) Does the NTS provide sufficient information for a member of the public to understand the significant environmental effects of the proposed development without having to refer to main text of the EIA Report?	Yes
ii) Are maps and diagrams included in the NTS that, at a minimum, illustrate the location of the application site, the boundary of the proposed development, and the location of key environmental receptors?	Yes
iii) Is it clear that the NTS was made available as a separate stand-alone document?	Yes