



GREENPEACE



February 2009

Parliamentary Briefing

Marine and Coastal Access Bill Amendment

Public authority failure to comply with duties etc (Clause 124)

The organisations listed above are all members of Wildlife and Countryside Link's Marine Task Force¹, which has been campaigning for several years for improvements in marine conservation and better management of the marine area. We have been closely engaged in the Marine & Coastal Access Bill process from the outset.

Background

We support the power for the statutory nature conservation bodies to seek explanation from the public authority as to why it has failed to comply with its duties in relation to clauses 121 and 122. We would welcome a duty on the public authority to also notify the Secretary of State or Scottish Ministers ['relevant authority'], and where appropriate the Welsh Ministers, when providing such an explanation.

We also believe that the statutory nature conservation body should be allowed to publish any explanation received. This is not actually mentioned in the legislation and we feel that clause 124 should be amended to make this clearer.

For further information please contact Danny Stone, Parliamentary Officer, RSPB, on 07989 502004 or danny.stone@rspb.org.uk, Eva Groeneveld, Public Affairs Officer, WWF-UK on 07766 150944 or egroeneveld@wwf.org.uk, or Hazel Phillips, Head of Public Affairs, The Wildlife Trusts on 020 7803 4293 or hphillips@wildlifetrusts.org, or Melissa Moore, Senior Policy Officer, Marine Conservation Society on 07793 118386 or melissa.moore@mcsuk.org

¹ Wildlife and Countryside Link is a coalition of the UK's major environmental organisations working together for the conservation and protection of wildlife, the countryside and the marine environment.

Annex – Amendments

Marine & Coastal Access Bill

House of Lords Committee Stage, February 2009

Clause	Clause 124 Failure comply with duties etc.
Amendment	Page 75, line 44: Insert at end 'and a copy of this explanation must be forwarded to the relevant authority' Page 75, line 44: Insert at end of clause new sub subclause '(c) the body may publish any explanation in writing received from the authority '