

CREATING A SUSTAINABLE SEPA: MOVING TOWARDS NET ZERO

October 2019

Every day SEPA works to protect and enhance Scotland's environment, helping communities and businesses thrive within the resources of our planet.



We call this **One Planet Prosperity**

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Situation overview

Every day SEPA works to protect and enhance Scotland's environment, helping communities and businesses thrive within the resources of our planet. We call this One Planet Prosperity.

Our ambitious and progressive strategy recognises the scale of the global climate emergency facing humanity and the urgency to act. It recognises that whilst environmental compliance is non-negotiable, environmental, social and economic success will require systemic rather than incremental change.

To support Scottish businesses we've introduced or are consulting on 16 'sector plans' for Scottish industries which will drive compliance and 'beyond compliance' systemic change and innovation from including a focus on reducing energy, material and water resources. We've signed seven 'Sustainable Growth Agreements' with partner organisations that reflect a shared ambition for practical action to deliver environmental outcomes. One agreement alone, with leading Scottish insulation specialist Superglass, is saving circa 47.5 million kWh of energy per year, and environmental compliance of Scottish business more broadly has exceeded over 90% for the third year in a row.

We're helping Scotland prepare more powerfully for future increased flooding, using principles set out in the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. Using the latest Met Office climate predictions, our recently published National Flood Risk Assessment identified 284,000 homes, businesses and services across Scotland at risk from flooding and 235 potentially vulnerable areas where significant flood risk exists now or is likely to occur in the future. In addition to our 365 day a year flood forecasting and warning service, we'll shortly consult on a refreshed One Planet Prosperity: Flood Risk Strategy.

But we know that systemic change is as important for SEPA as it is for Scottish business. That's why we're changing today, creating a world-class environment protection agency fit for the challenges of tomorrow.

In 2018 we published our Climate Change Commitment Statement. The statement details the 21 actions we will achieve to meet our six climate change commitments. Of these, five have been completed and the remainder are on-going. Whilst our greenhouse gas emissions have reduced by

almost 40% since 2007, we are reviewing our commitments and accelerating our actions with a view to achieving net zero emissions by 2045.

Our Climate Change Commitment Statement can be found [on our website](#).

Reducing the carbon impact of travel

Aligned with our Climate Change Commitment Statement, SEPA is firmly focused on reducing the carbon impact of travel and operates a rigid travel hierarchy, ensuring staff opt for the most sustainable methods of travel for each individual circumstance.

Enabling digital communication

As Scotland's environmental watchdog, SEPA's specialist teams operate from 22 locations across the country. To enable effective communication and collaboration, SEPA has invested in information systems in recent years to allow email, voice and video conference connections.

Supporting travel by public transport

Using SEPA's travel hierarchy, officers will prioritise public transport options where audio or video conference is not an option or appropriate.

In the last five years, officers across the agency have adopted train travel, taking 41,091 journeys by train.

Reducing travel by air

SEPA's travel hierarchy is firmly focused on prioritising digital communication or public transport options. It recognises, however, that there are limited exceptions where travel by air is required in closely monitored individual circumstances.

These may include supporting enhanced regulation in remote or island communities, collaborating with international partners on cross-frontier initiatives or working with international partners to support global programmes.

In the last five years:

- SEPA has reduced travel by air by 43%*
- Mainland domestic travel has reduced by 59%*
- Whilst supporting enhanced regulation in remote or island communities (including around aquaculture), air travel to island communities has reduced by 52%*
- Recognising our international obligations, the importance of cross-frontier initiatives and working with international partners to support global programmes, international air travel

is used to assist our international partners establish water quality, flood prevention and environmental protection initiatives in Europe and in developing nations.

* Based on number of flights, not distance

Chief Executive travel

As with all chief executive's across the public, private and voluntary sectors, SEPA's Chief Executive recognises the enhanced responsibility upon his office to demonstrate climate leadership against a backdrop of internal obligations leading a national agency operating across 22 locations.

The Chief Executive's office is also responsible for leading enhanced regulation in remote or island communities, collaborating with international partners on cross-frontier initiatives, or working with international partners to support global programmes.

Balancing these obligations, in the last five years, SEPA's Chief Executive, Terry A'Hearn:

- has not owned or leased a private vehicle.
- has prioritised personal public transport during his daily commute.
- has supported public transport for SEPA travel, with 140 recorded journeys via train, including to international events.

Of the recorded 57 flights:

- 10 were supporting enhanced regulation in remote or island communities;
- six were in relation to obligations in Northern Ireland, where Mr. A'Hearn was previously Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, including legal obligations;
- 32 were in relation to engagement with European environment partners;
- nine were in relation to cross-frontier initiatives or working with international partners to support global programmes.

Appendix A: Reducing travel by air

All SEPA - Number of flights	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	April to Aug 2019/2020
number of flights	721	613	328	455	413	113
mileage of flights	171,146	235,535	133,263	394,505	372,458	69,961

All SEPA - Number of flights by type	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	April to Aug 2019/2020
Domestic Average (Mainland UK)	143	29	32	23	19	1
Domestic Average (Islands)	390	354	195	277	235	92
International	12	1	1	47	20	
Long haul		18	4	6	37	3
Short haul	176	211	96	102	102	17
Total	721	613	328	455	413	113

Note: International is a flight that starts outside the UK but is not flying to the UK. Long haul is an intercontinental flight that starts/finishes from within the UK. They have different emissions factors.

All SEPA - Flights distance (miles) by type	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	April to Aug 2019/2020
Domestic Average	23,884	7,345	8,762	8,051	5,626	141
Domestic Average (Islands)	58,154	58,640	42,848	74,724	62,256	23,668
International	4,641	163	490	126,631	29,674	0
Long haul	0	51,333	7,180	75,172	156,519	30,986
Short haul	84,467	118,055	73,983	109,927	118,383	15,166
Total	171,146	235,535	133,263	394,505	372,458	69,961

All SEPA - Total of CO2e T by type of flight	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	April to Aug 2019/2020
Domestic Average	11.27	3.52	3.93	3.47	2.70	0.07
Domestic Average (Islands)	27.33	28.12	19.22	32.16	29.89	9.71
International	1.26	0.05	0.14	36.74	8.73	0.00
Long haul		16.36	2.21	23.89	53.28	10.60
Short haul	22.60	32.25	20.06	28.49	30.93	3.86
Total	62.47	80.30	45.56	124.74	125.53	24.24

Appendix B: Chief Executive travel

Travel by air

T A'Hearn number of flights by type	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	April to Aug 2019/2020
Domestic Average	4	3	6	2		
Domestic Average (Islands)		5	1			3
International				5		
Short haul		19	7	6	1	
Total	4	27	14	13	1	3

T A'Hearn - Flights distance (miles) by type	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	April to Aug 2019/2020
Domestic Average (UK Mainland)	476	404	530	675		0

Domestic Average (Islands)		1,237	221			1,222
International				7,991		
Short haul		11,424	4,279	4,658	2,626	
Total	476	13,065	5,030	13,324	2,626	1,222

T A'Hearn destination of UK Mainland flights & mileages	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	April to Aug 2019/2020
Belfast city->Edinburgh->Belfast city	269.38					
Belfast city->Glasgow->Belfast City	207.06					
Edinburgh -> Belfast City			282			
Edinburgh -> Belfast City, Belfast City -> Edinburgh			141			
Edinburgh->Belfast City		134.69				
Edinburgh->Belfast City->Edinburgh		269.38				
Glasgow -> Belfast City, Belfast City -> Glasgow			107			
Glasgow -> London Heathrow				345		
London Heathrow -> Edinburgh				330		
Total	476.44	404.07	530	675		

T A'Hearn destination of Domestic Islands flights & mileages	2014/20 15	2015/20 16	2016/20 17	2017/20 18	2018/20 19	April to Aug 2019/20 20
Edinburgh -> Shetland Isles, Shetland Isles -> Aberdeen						491
Edinburgh -> Kirkwall, Kirkwall -> Edinburgh			221			442
Edinburgh -> Stornoway, Stornoway -> Inverness						289
Edinburgh-> Lerwick, Lerwick-> Edinburgh		564				
Edinburgh-> Stornoway, Stornoway-> Edinburgh		384				
Inverness -> Stornoway, Stornoway -> Edinburgh		289				
Total		1,237	221			1,222

T A'Hearn destination of International flights & mileages	2014/2 015	2015/2 016	2016/2 017	2017/2 018	2018/2 019	April to Aug 2019/2 020
Edinburgh -> Helsinki, Helsinki -> Geneva				2,305		
Geneva -> Paris C.d Gaull, Paris C.d Gaull -> Edinburgh				796		
Helsinki -> Amsterdam, Amsterdam -> Edinburgh, Edinburgh -> Zurich, Zurich -> Geneva				2,279		
London Gatwick -> Trondheim, Trondheim -> Oslo, Oslo -> Edinburgh				1,762		
Trondheim -> Oslo, Oslo -> Edinburgh				849		
Total				7,991		

T A'Hearn destination of Short Haul flights & mileages	2014/20 15	2015/20 16	2016/20 17	2017/20 18	2018/20 19	April to Aug 2019/20 20
Brussels -> London Heathrow		206				

Brussels->Edinburgh		475				
Copenhagen -> London Heathrow			594			
Dublin->Edinburgh		210				
Edinburgh -> Brussels		950				
Edinburgh -> Brussels, Brussels -> Edinburgh			475			
Edinburgh -> Copenhagen			622			
Edinburgh -> Copenhagen, Copenhagen -> Edinburgh			622			
Edinburgh -> Dublin, Dublin -> Edinburgh				418		
Edinburgh -> Geneva, Geneva -> London Gatwick			1,252			
Edinburgh -> London Heathrow, London Heathrow -> Berlin Tegel, Berlin Tegel -> Vilnius			508			
Edinburgh->Amsterdam->Riga->Amsterdam->Edinburgh		2,445				
Edinburgh->London – LHR->Keflavik international->London - LHR/Edinburgh		3,016				
Glasgow Prestwick -> Rome Ciampino				1,232		
Keflavik international->London - Lhr/Edinburgh		3,016				
London Heathrow -> Oslo, Oslo -> Edinburgh					2,626	
London Heathrow -> Stockholm Arn, Stockholm Arn -> London Heathrow, London Heathrow -> Edinburgh				2,110		
Rome Ciampino -> London Stansted				898		
Vilnius -> Brussels, Brussels -> London Heathrow		1,106	206			
Total		11,424	4,279	4,658	2,626	