

Environment and Forestry Directorate
Environmental Quality Division

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Dear 

Thank you for your letter of 25 April informing the Scottish Ministers that Aberdeenshire Council had decided to confirm the proposed Flood Protection Scheme for Stonehaven on a preliminary basis.

Having considered all the documentation provided by Aberdeenshire Council, the Scottish Ministers are content that the Council has followed the appropriate process to reach the preferred scheme, and that it meets the stated objective of the scheme which is to mitigate the flooding of residential, non-residential and commercial land in the town of Stonehaven. It has been designed to provide a 1:200 year level of protection, which is the current standard required for planning purposes and the threshold for unacceptable flood risk.

From the information provided, the Scottish Government's view is that Aberdeenshire Council has dealt with the objections to the scheme in a professional way, and has sought to provide reassurance and accommodate modifications where reasonably practicable.

For these reasons, the Scottish Ministers have decided not to call in the scheme for consideration, and have referred it back to Aberdeenshire Council to hold a hearing on the proposed scheme. It is for the Council to make the arrangements for the hearing and determine who is to conduct the hearing. However, I should like to draw your attention to the Scottish Government Guidance on taking forward Flood Protection Schemes which