

Title: PHC2018/09 - Representing Scotland's natural environment values in risk assessment: a critique

Background: Several Scottish stakeholders consulted in face to face discussions and at the PHC launch event expressed the view that the natural environment was under-represented in current risk assessments – particularly with respect to the values at risk and how these might influence the choices made with respect to mitigation and outbreak management. Although methodologies for valuation of the natural environment has developed in recent years (e.g. ecosystem services, natural capital), the estimates are often tentative and indeed contested by some, either on the basis of assumptions and techniques (e.g. willingness to pay), or on philosophical grounds (e.g. disquiet with attempting to monetise such characteristics and benefits). The topic merits further examination.

Impact: Improved risk assessment, or improved defence of existing risk assessment for the natural environment in Scotland; PHC and key Scottish policy contacts better equipped for dialogue with respect to natural environment

Objectives and research required for this call: Report / discussion paper on existing approaches to risk assessment in the natural environment with reference to wider body of material in published and grey literature.

Outputs required:

- Report / discussion paper suitable for readership by PHC directorate and key policy stakeholders within Scottish Government and linked bodies (e.g. SNH and SEPA); potential development into a publishable discussion paper.
- 1-2 page policy summary

Indicative key dates:

- Deadline for notes of interest: 27th September 2018
- Project start: 1st November 2018
- Overview of plans and project start-up meeting with PHC Directorate: by end November 2018
- Completed discussion paper and summary: 28th February 2019
- Meeting with Scottish stakeholders: by 31st March 2019

Milestones to be confirmed by bidder.

Date all work needs to be completed by: 28th February 2019

Project type: Call down – collaborative, desk study and dialogue with key policy representatives and risk analysts

Maximum funding available (including overheads and VAT, where applicable): Indicative value £12,000