

Dear Mr Cartney

I am contacting you on behalf of the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI). PADI is the world's largest scuba diver training organisation with professional members throughout the world, including divers and instructors in Scotland.

I am contacting you with specific regard to point 5 of the Classes of Registerable Activity that has been included in this consultation. This section reads:

*These are 5 classes of activity being considered for registration under the new legislation. These activities, by necessity, carry a low risk of environmental impact and comprise the following:*

*5. The use of air filled flotation bags capable of lifting less than 100 kg from the sea bed.*

It is standard practise for scuba divers to carry small safety buoys known as 'Surface Marker Buoys' to indicate their location whilst they are underwater. These signalling devices inflated balloons or sausages that are towed at the surface and connected to the diver through the use of a reel. They are highly important in ensuring that boat traffic is aware of them and assisting people at the surface in monitoring the position of the divers in fast moving currents. As you can appreciate, this equipment comprises an important part of a diver's safety devices; its use is encouraged and dedicated training provided in its use. This equipment would appear to potentially fall under the description provided above; this would in turn appear to indicate that every time a scuba diver wished to complete a dive in Scottish waters they would need to register this activity. We would like to clarify whether this was the intent of point 5 and to ensure that the full scope of such a requirement is appreciated, with thousands of dives being conducted every year in Scotland.

If this was not the intent of Point 5, we would recommend an amendment be made to state that this does not apply to signalling or safety devices.

If this is the intent of Point 5, we would recommend that any registration process is streamlined and placed online to facilitate divers, both local and tourist, in ensuring their dives can be registered quickly whilst not discouraging people from using these important safety devices.

I hope this information is of help; please let me know if I can be of further assistance or you require further documentation from me. I have attached a copy of the Respondent Information Form to this email for you.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Somerset**  
Supervisor ,Training and Quality Management

**PADI Europe, Middle East and Africa**