

POW OF INCHAFFRAY DRAINAGE COMMISSION (SCOTLAND) BILL

**Written submission received by J Innes Thomson BSc CEng FICE
Chief Executive, ADA**

I have recently been made aware of the consultation and evidence being taken to examine the progress of a possible private members bill to update the legislation surrounding the operation of water management activities in the Pow of Inchaffrey.

As a brief introduction, ADA is the membership organisation representing the interests of drainage, water level and flood risk management authorities in the UK and we currently have around 230 members stretching across Wales, Northern Ireland and England. As well as representing the industry at a governmental level, we also help the industry provide a consistency of governance and service as well as being a point-of-first-contact for technical matters and information sharing. ADA is an organisation with no political affiliations.

I am taking this opportunity to write to you not only in support of the activities of the Commissioners at Pow of Inchaffrey, but also to offer ADA's services to your Committee if you require evidence about the operation of similar Commissions which exist in England. One of the challenges we all face is how local services such as the maintenance of the watercourses in the Pow of Inchaffrey district are paid for and the mechanism whereby local beneficiaries contribute to such services is a model that is finding increasing support. This is conditional, of course, on their being very good evidence that what is being paid for is wanted by local communities and represents good value. Internal Drainage Boards and/or Drainage Commissions are being increasingly seen to provide that service in a more focussed and economically viable way than, for example, local councils or national agencies.

Further information about ADA's activities and information which I hope may provide you with further help with your deliberations can be found on our website at www.ada.org.uk