

**NORTH SEA COMMISSION - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP
Members profile 2005**

1. Name :

Susan Matheson

2. Your e-mail address:

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3. Organisation :

Aberdeen City Council

4. What is your job title?

(i.e. European adviser, councillor, executive secretary, project manager)

International Business Development Executive

5. What is your position within your organisation:

X

Officer

X

Politician

Other

6. Briefly describe your main tasks/responsibilities:

7. Does your organisation have an official presence in Europe / EU?

Through the East of Scotland European Consortium (ESEC), we have an office (presently unmanned) in Brussels.

8. What is your structure for representation on European issues?

As well as having direct access to our MEPs and to the various DGs in Brussels. We work in conjunction with ESEC and the Scottish Local Authority Representative organisation (COSLA) to lobby on European matters. Europe is a reserved issue, meaning that the UK Government deals with it rather than the Scottish Parliament. However, the latter has a European Strategy and a European and External Affairs Committee. There is no one Minister with a European portfolio in Scotland, rather it is split between a number of Ministers' responsibilities.

Consultation with local authorities can come directly from the EU, from UK Government, from the Scottish Executive and/or from COSLA and ESEC.

The established lobbying route is local, then Scottish Executive then UK Gov then Brussels.

9. How do you lobby Europe on economic development issues?

As above, the difference being it is a devolved matter and there is a Scottish Minister with direct responsibility for this area.

10. Do you have position papers on: Not position papers as such but we have contributed to various papers

Energy issues and Renewable energy

SME Innovation and Development

Rural Development

Food production, promotion and development (incl. tourism potential)

European funding

Academic and business knowledge exchange

Baltic Sea co-operation

Other

11. What other economic development activities are you currently involved with?

International Trade Development

Business Development

Sectoral Projects for ICT, Oil and Gas, Food and Fish

Marketing and Promotion of the City

Strategic Events

Inward Investment

Skills Development

Strategy Development