



12 March 2015

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Fergus Ewing MSP
Minister for Business, Energy and Tourism
The Scottish Government
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Dear Minister

Protecting Scotland's Wild Land Areas

Less than a year ago you refused consent for a wind farm at Glenmorie, near Bonar Bridge, because of the significant adverse impact this would have on wild land. This refusal sent a strong message to developers that it is inappropriate to bring forward large-scale wind developments in areas now recognised in Scottish planning policy as nationally important for their wild land qualities. Now we are asking you to make the same decision and refuse consent for the Allt Duine, Glencassley and Sallachy wind farms, all of which impact significantly on Scotland's flagship Wild Land Areas.

The Allt Duine, Glencassley and Sallachy developments are key examples of where the Scottish Government has an opportunity to deliver on its commitment in the new National Planning Framework 3 to continue its strong protection for our wildest landscapes, and where wild land is identified as a "nationally important asset."

In June 2014 the Scottish Government published its new Scottish Planning Policy which states: "Wild land character is displayed in some of Scotland's remoter upland, mountain and coastal areas, which are very sensitive to any form of intrusive human activity and have little or no capacity to accept new development. Plans should identify and safeguard the character of wild land as identified on the 2014 SNH map of wild land areas."

In refusing the Glenmorie development you stated that: "the prospective site now sits largely in a Wild Land Area in SNH's 2014 map. Ministers have concluded that, if anything, the wild land impacts are of greater concern in the context of the new map and SPP than they were in the context of the previous SPP and map of SAWLs, and therefore that these considerations only lend weight to a decision to refuse the Development."

Your refusal of Glenmorie was a welcome indication that the Scottish Government is delivering on its commitment in the new Scottish Planning Policy and National Planning Framework 3 to continue its strong protection for our wildest landscapes. It is now time to reject Allt Duine, Glencassley and Sallachy for the same reasons.

We would welcome your response to these points. Given the strong interest from our members and supporters in this issue, and regarding the future for wild land throughout Scotland, we are publishing this letter on our website. We would be happy to share your response in a similar fashion.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Pearson', with a horizontal line underneath.

Peter Pearson
Chair

Cc Aileen McLeod, MSP Minister for Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform