

**Sent:** 30 August 2012 18:26

**To:** Jane Hope; David Green

**Subject:** Alexander and Anne Drummond - Application for permission for one dwelling house

30<sup>th</sup> August 2012

Jane Hope  
Chief Executive

David Green  
Convener  
Cairngorm National Park

Attention of Committee members

Dear Jane and David

**Alexander and Anne Drummond**  
**Application for permission for one dwelling house**

I am writing as the MSP for Mr and Mrs Alexander Drummond, and wish to provide this letter of support for their application in the hope that members of the board will grant permission for this couple, to be able to build a home in their own community near Cromdale.

I was first consulted by Mrs Drummond in June, last year, and refer to my previous correspondence, including my letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> June. The Drummonds have lived in the area for 35 years. Mr Drummond originally hails from Newtonmore, and for the last four years approximately has worked for Carntyne of Aberlour. She has worked for over 29 years at the RAF outdoor centre at Grantown. They are both locals and work locally.

They had to move house because of a severe problem with anti-social neighbours. Sadly, this happens for some unfortunate people. They informed me, when consulting me last year, that they had to spend their time flitting between a caravan and their daughter's house – which is 2 Old Smiddy Court, Market Road, Grantown on Spey. Living in a caravan is not, of course, an easy experience, especially in the winter months. I expect that my constituents will update to the board their circumstances, in their application. I hope and expect that the board members will inquire about them, and will be sympathetic towards their needs for a home of their own in their own part of Scotland.

They have reached an agreement with a local farmer to purchase a piece of ground from him. They are not able to afford to purchase a plot on the open market, because of the high price of such plots locally, and in and about Cromdale. I understand that they or their agent will seek to submit information relevant to establish that they require to purchase this plot because there is simply not available to them at a price which is affordable to them, a plot or a house which is suitable for their reasonable needs, in Cromdale.

They have selected a very attractive design for their house which they hope to build on the plot. As members will know, there are numerous timber built properties in Badenoch and Strathspey, and I know of several, from my own knowledge of the wider area, which I myself live in, and which I have represented in the Scottish Parliament since 1999.

I understand that the policy which applies states that new affordable housing will be considered favourably where there are no suitable sites within settlements. I know that the Drummonds or their agents will, before the meeting which considers the application, provide information to demonstrate that they cannot afford such a house. They are not in jobs which provide huge incomes. Their resources are therefore, according to my instructions insufficient to fund a new plot and building thereon at market prices.

I believe that there is a demonstrable need for this couple to obtain permission for their house. They work in the area. They are from the area. They live in the area. They wish to spend their remaining days there. They both work in the rural economy.

A reasonable interpretation of the policy would, I respectfully submit, lead to granting permission.

This is in accordance with meeting the needs of social and economic development of the area, which is one of the aims of the CNPA. In addition, it appears to me that to grant the permission would not in any way detract from any of the other aims of the park. There are a number of homes which are outwith settlements. The policy which applies the exemption for affordable housing would apply only in such situations and for such individuals as the Drummonds who can show that they need the plot for an affordable home.

I very much hope that members of the Park will agree that the circumstances of this case deserve and merit a grant.

I hope that this letter will be taken into account in the decision making process.

Yours sincerely,

Fergus Ewing MSP

**Inverness and Nairn constituency (including Cromdale)**

