

To: Cairngorms Outdoor Access Forum.

Re: Core Paths at Ballochbuie and Glen Muick

I have seen the report of the Reporter arguing that the two paths referred to above are valuable elements in the Core Path Network. However he also indicates that the Scottish Government has decided that for security reasons the two paths should not be included in the Network.

The reason for his recommendation for the inclusion of the paths appears to be that they provide important links between communities/locations where users might wish to go.

- How will the CLOAForum ensure that NMUsers are able to pass between the communities/locations in a safe manner, and how will NMUs know about the opportunities and restrictions that may apply?
- In considering the Core Paths Implementation Plan, will the CLOAF establish alternative routes to those proposed by the Reporter but refused by the Scottish Government?
- Will the CLOAF seek to ensure that the procedures set out in the SOACode at Sn4.14 and the LRAct at Sn11 apply? ie Local Authority approval of orders 'to exclude the land from access rights for the duration of the event', in order that the public is aware of the restrictions.

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Extract from Reporter's letter:

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY (CNPA) CORE PATHS PLAN.

I refer to the CNPA Draft Core Paths Plan, and all documentation relevant to the outstanding objections, which were forwarded to Scottish Government Inquiry Reporters. I am now writing, on behalf of Scottish Ministers, to direct the CNPA to adopt the plan subject to the following modification: the deletion of path LBS145 (road between Nethy Bridge and Braes of Abernethy junction). A copy of Mr Mahony's Report is attached for your information. You will note that Mr Mahoney recommended also that paths at Ballochbuie and Glen Muick be included in the plan unless Scottish Minister considered that they should be excluded in the interests of security raised by the Balmoral Estate. Scottish Ministers have sought advice from Home Office Ministers who have confirmed that the interests of national security do apply in these cases. Scottish Ministers have decided that these paths should not be included. I am now writing to ask the CNPA to adopt the Core Path Plan subject to the modification outlined above.