

Minister for Environment and Climate Change
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To all:

National Park Partnership Plan Partners



25 February 2014

Dear Colleague

DELIVERY OF NATIONAL PARK PARTNERSHIP PLANS

I appreciate some time has now passed since I chaired the discussions, but I want to take this opportunity to record my thanks and to all involved in the 2013/14 National Park Partnership Plan meetings. I was pleased to chair the annual meetings and was encouraged to hear directly of the good collaboration and delivery in both the Cairngorms and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs.

The Scottish Government continues to see our National Parks as two of Scotland's greatest assets, for nature, tourism and our rural economy. It was good to hear from a range of organisations in both National Parks, and the meetings highlighted to me:

- the significant contribution that conservation in our National Parks can make to Scotland's 2020 Biodiversity Challenge;
- the active partnerships with private sector businesses that are realising the economic and tourism potential of our National Parks for Scotland;
- the significant value of both Parks as outdoor learning and recreation resources to deliver education, health and wellbeing benefits; and
- the successful examples of partnership and collaboration on which we must build further.

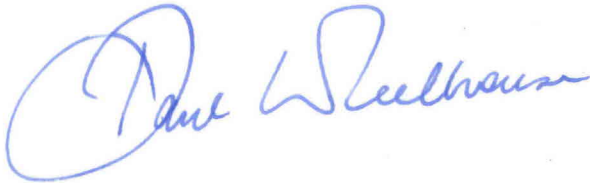
The Scottish Government expects all of our public bodies to take the initiative in delivering our public sector reform agenda, working across organisational boundaries to deliver better outcomes. Delivery in both National Parks demonstrates that organisations across sectors are making good progress in delivering real partnerships to benefit these places. The co-ordinated approaches to capital investment and resource alignment are particularly

important. I look to the National Park Authorities to continue to provide leadership, and to all of you to be proactive and innovative in ways of working in National Parks.

I was pleased to hear about several successful examples of delivery, but it was also useful to hear directly from you about areas where progress remains difficult and where greater focus and collaboration is needed. In particular it would be good to develop further collaboration in business planning for economic development activity in these important rural areas. It is also clear that the National Park Partnerships are effective ways to collaborate in contributing to delivery of Single Outcome Agreements.

I look forward to meeting again later this year to hear about further progress in making the most of our National Parks for Scotland.

Kindest regards



PAUL WHEELHOUSE