

Cairngorms National Park Authority
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Crown Estate Scotland – Corporate Plan Consultation

Dear Crown Estate Scotland,

There is significant overlap between many areas of the Crown Estate Scotland's Vision, Purpose and Missions with the delivery of the National Park Partnership Plan. The Park Authority welcomes all opportunities to strengthen the strategic connections with the Park Plan which all public bodies have a duty to help deliver. There is an opportunity to more clearly align the work on Glenlivet Estate with the Park Plan and the five strategic priorities set out in the draft corporate plan.

As a significant landowner in the Park, and especially as a public land holding, collaboration and strategic alignment is key. Our comments are therefore focussed on how we can best work together to deliver the vision and overarching strategy that describes how all those with a responsibility for the National Park will work together on regional and national priorities.

There is an opportunity for Crown Estate Scotland to be an exemplar in demonstrating how public land can help mitigate, adapt and build resilience to the twin crises through both nature based and infrastructure solutions. The draft corporate plan clearly demonstrates the role CES plays in renewables, it would be good to see a similar recognition of the nature-based solutions it can demonstrate on its rural land holdings.

The corporate plan could highlight how publicly owned land can lead the way in reaching 30 x 30 targets and being active participants in the development of local and regional Nature Networks. Recognising the ambition to help deliver this national agenda in the draft corporate plan would facilitate their integration into estate or land management plans and



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subsequently support delivery of National Park Partnership Plan objectives to create Nature Networks.

The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy states the aim to 'halt nature loss by 2030'. The draft corporate plan could reflect this language more directly, rather than using the phrase 'net biodiversity loss on rural estates is halted'. Similarly, there is opportunity to reflect the SBS 2030 objectives to accelerate restoration and regeneration and embed nature friendly farming, fishing and forestry into the activities. There is a lack of reference in the draft corporate plan to how Crown Estate Scotland intend to support changing agriculture practices and the tenanted sector on their land.

Alongside activities for woodland creation and peatland restoration, the Park Authority would like see activities include freshwater and catchment restoration. This would link well with the activity to support wild salmon initiatives, to delivery of the Flood Resilience Strategy and to delivery of NPPP objectives for freshwater restoration. Woodland creation should consider maximising multiple public benefit, including biodiversity, for example in promoting continuous cover forestry and native woodland (which can be commercial). This could be referenced to reinforce the role of public land as an exemplar. It is good to see recognition of the activity to remove invasive and non-native species as this is a particular issue on the Glenlivet estate where sitka spruce regeneration is prolific and expanding.

Increased community involvement in the management of land will improve the delivery of public benefits to communities, supporting their health and wellbeing. The National Park Partnership Plan includes an objective to increase the number of assets in community ownership or management, the number of social enterprises that generate a profit and the area of land where communities are involved in management decisions. We would like to see the description of community wealth building expanded to include these parameters and position the Crown Estate Scotland as an exemplar of best practice. There may also be an opportunity here to reference the Scottish Land Commission's Rights and Responsibilities principles.

There is also little reference to affordable housing as an issue within the draft corporate plan. As a significant landowner in Scotland and the Cairngorms National Park it would be good to see reference to Crown Estate Scotland enabling affordable housing opportunities on their land.

Crown Estate Scotland have an opportunity to really show how public land can deliver multiple benefits. The corporate plan is rightly a high-level strategic document but it may be



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beneficial to include an appendix on each of the significant land holdings the Crown Estate has stating the key aims and objectives for these over the next 5 years.

I am happy to discuss any of these points in more detail as you look to finalise your corporate plan.

Yours sincerely



Grant Moir
CEO, Cairngorms National Park Authority



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