

AGENDA ITEM 6

APPENDIX 4b

2016/0434/DET

**REPRESENTATIONS
GENERAL**

Cairngorms National Park Authority

14 The Square

Grantown on Spey

Scotland

PH26 3HG

By Email: planning@cairngorms.co.uk

Date: 07/12/2016

Dear Sir or Madam

16/05133/FUL Development of 6 no, affordable homes & associated access road, car-parking & landscaping Land South Of Dellmhor Rothiemurchus Aviemore

RSPB Scotland has considered the above application and supporting documents but takes no view at present on the merits, or otherwise, of the proposals. However, we note the proximity of the development site to the Cairngorms Special Protection Area (SPA).

It is necessary, therefore, that Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) as competent authority carry out an appropriate assessment to determine implications for the SPA conservation objectives. Only if that assessment concludes that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the SPA can planning permission be granted.

We note that this application is within 10 minutes walk and cycle of woodlands that supports a meta-population of capercaillie. If this application were to be consented, it may lead to increased recreational usage of the surrounding area with potential for increased disturbance to capercaillie. It is therefore necessary to consider recreational impact upon the local populations of capercaillie within the assessment for this application. We would recommend that appropriate information is provided in the form of an information pack for residences regarding the importance of the nearby woodlands for sensitive species such as capercaillie. The pack should contain information on potential recreational disturbance issues and the sensitive lekking and breeding period.

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Chairman, Committee for Scotland: Professor Colin Galbraith **Director, RSPB Scotland:** Stuart Housden OBE **Regional Director:** George Campbell

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We have considerable concerns regarding the potential cumulative impact of small housing developments such as this on capercaillie and the effects this may have on the expansion of the national population. Although an individual development may have very little impact, the cumulative impact of several similar cases could be significant. If you regard any further clarification on the above please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Darrell Stevens Conservation Officer South Highland

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