

Cairngorms National Park Authority
14 The Square
Granttown on Spey
PH26 3HG

T: 01479 873 535

13 August 2024

Flooding Team
Scottish Government
3 J South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Cairngorms National Park Authority Response to Flood Resilience Strategy Consultation

Dear Flooding Team,

The Cairngorms National Park Authority supports the proposed Flood Resilience Strategy, notably a focus on flood resilient places, created through meaningful engagement with communities of place and interest, which bring both local and national, societal benefit.

There is significant alignment with the proposed aims and principles in the Strategy and objectives in the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan for increasing woodland, restoring peatlands, and reconnecting rivers with their floodplains – all of which will help intercept, absorb, increase storage and release water slowly.

We support the ethos of a joined-up approach to delivering strategy outcomes within the national policy framework tackling the twin crises. Critical to achieving this is a place-based approach to national policy and public funding, and close collaboration across public sector delivery partners to delivering shared targets and outcomes, avoiding a sector and/or agency specific approach.



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National Park Authority

Ùghdarras Pàirc Nàiseanta a'
Mhonaidh Ruaidh

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Granttown on Spey
Scotland, PH26 3HG

+44 (0) 1479 873 535
enquiries@cairngorms.co.uk
cairngorms.co.uk

Rural payments are critical to 'making space for water'. The Park authority strongly advocates for future agricultural payments to support land managers in allowing floodplains to function naturally and develop alternative farming methods that work in tandem with seasonally inundated fields.

Communities in the National Park have been directly affected by the devastating impacts of Storm Frank in 2015 and more recently Storm Babet in 2023. The Park Authority welcomes the commitments in the Strategy to community empowerment and participation. This opportunity can be supported by a programme of raising awareness and understanding, capacity building and funding to empower communities to take part in flood resilience planning, decision making and action through local structures such as Catchment Management Partnerships and community groups.

Delivering at the speed and scale necessary will require a holistic view of land-use, good stakeholder engagement and significant commitment and investment from private and public sources. The Park Authority is currently leading a River Dee Resilience Strategy, coordinating the work of public bodies, engaging land managers and local communities of place and interest, spatially targeting and prioritising a suite of nature based and engineered interventions, and developing mechanisms to draw in investment from multiple sources. We would welcome the opportunity to work further with the Flooding Team in developing and delivering this model.

Yours sincerely



Andy Ford
Director of Nature and Climate Change



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