

250508 (157) FOI National Park Proposal and GSAB

From: [Freedom of Information](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Freedom of Information](#)
Subject: Freedom of Information Request
Date: 08 May 2025 15:59:08
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your freedom of information request and clarification of 10 March 2025. We are responding to you under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

FOI REQUEST (10 March 2025)

1. Please could you provide me with any SOSE response, formal and informal to the recent NatureScot consultation on the proposed Galloway National Park
2. Please could you provide me with any SOSE correspondence with Ministers, ministries or other Scottish Government agency in respect of the proposed Galloway National Park
3. Please could you provide me with any SOSE correspondence with Ministers, ministries or other Scottish Government agency in respect of the funding for the GSA Biosphere.

CLARIFICATION (Received 31 March)

- Questions 2 and 3: Time period 10 March 2024 to 10 March 2025
- Questions 2 and 3; instead of ministries, please substitute Scottish Government departments, Scottish Ministers, NatureScot and any Scottish Government Special Advisers

RESPONSE

Question 1: The responses to the consultation on the proposed Galloway National Park will be published by NatureScot and in the public domain, this will include SOSE's response. We therefore apply section 27 of FOISA (information intended for future publication). This exempts information from disclosure if an authority, or third party, plans to publish the information no later than 12 weeks after the date the request is made. This exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. We have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. We understand that there may be some public interest in sharing SOSE's consultation response, however, this will be met when it is published along with all consultation responses. In the meantime, this allows all responses to be collated and checked before they are published at the same time.

Question 2: The information you have requested is provided in *Appendix A*.

Question 3: The information you have requested is provided in *Appendix B*.

FOISA exemptions have been applied to some of the information you requested. Information on these exemptions is available below.

- Section 38(1)(b) – personal information

Some of the information has been redacted as the information constitutes personal data under data protection laws and to disclose the information would breach one or more of the data protection principles. This is an absolute exemption and does not require consideration of the public interest.

- Section 29(1)(a) – formulation or development of government policy

Some information has not been shared because it relates to the ongoing development of Scottish Government's proposal for a new national park to be established in Galloway. Scottish Government commissioned NatureScot to develop and consult on the detailed arrangements for the proposed National Park. This exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. We have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption and we have found on this occasion that the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. It is in the public interest to allow officials and Scottish Ministers to be able to discuss and debate the development and formulation of the national park proposal and consultation process.

- Section 30(b)(ii) – free and frank exchange of views

Some information has not been shared because disclosure would, or would be likely to, inhibit substantially the free and frank exchange of views and discussion for the purpose of discussion and deliberation. This exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. We have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. SOSE recognises there is a public interest in disclosing information as part of being an open and transparent public body. However, on this occasion we have found that the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. There is a greater public interest in allowing a private space which officials and Ministers can communicate with external stakeholders as part of the process of discussion, opinion and deliberation. This private space is essential so that views can be freely shared without scrutiny.

You have the right to request a review of the way in which this request has been processed. Should you wish to exercise this right, you will need to contact us within 40 working days of receipt of this email.

If you remain dissatisfied on completion of the review, you have the right to appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner and thereafter to the Court of Session on a point of law only:

Scottish Information Commissioner

Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS
Telephone: 01334 464610

www.foi.scot

or for online appeals:

www.foi.scot/appeal

Regards,
SOSE Corporate Relations
FOI@sose.scot



www.southofscotlandenterprise.com

Appendix A



From: [redacted]@gov.scot [redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 07 June 2024 10:32
To: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@sose.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: National Park announcement

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Hi [redacted]

We have also had a request for an update from [redacted] so we will loop you into that.

Best wishes

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, June 7, 2024 10:06 AM
To: [redacted]@sose.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: National Park announcement

Good to meet you too [redacted] and to hear a little of what you are progressing from a biodiversity perspective in SOSE

I will need to pop your request off to the new National Parks team, so have copied colleagues [redacted] and [redacted] to get back to you.

Take care

[redacted]

[redacted] [redacted] Nature Division Scottish Government
[redacted] [redacted]

Mob: [REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@sose.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sose.scot)>

Sent: Friday, June 7, 2024 8:59 AM

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>

Subject: National Park announcement

Hi [REDACTED]

Good to finally meet you at the OECM event. Quick, and probably impossible, question. I'm updating our Regional Economic Partnership next Friday on all things natural capital and so it would be helpful to get an update on the NP announcement. Realise it's scheduled for before Summer Recess but with the election date, does that mean it's likely to be after? And if so, would we be expecting an announcement when they go back or is this the sort of thing that can be announced in the summer break?

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@sose.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sose.scot)>

[REDACTED]



www.southofscotlandenterprise.com

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Sent: 30 July 2024 09:05
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Galloway National Park - next steps

Might be a short call but useful I feel thanks [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 9:04 AM
To: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>; [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Galloway National Park - next steps

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Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for confirming. No problems at all, will keep it in and can discuss anything then.

Best,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Nature
Division | Scottish Government

From: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 9:01 AM
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Galloway National Park - next steps

Hi [REDACTED]

It would be good to keep the call if that's okay just in case there are things we need to discuss and also to ensure we are all on the same page regarding this thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 8:57 AM
To: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>; [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Galloway National Park - next steps

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Hi [REDACTED]

I am conscious the [REDACTED] is meeting with [REDACTED] and yourself [REDACTED] later this morning.

I just wanted to check if you still wanted to meet this afternoon also? Happy to keep it in as scheduled or cancel if you feel it's no longer necessary but thought I'd check.

Best,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Nature
Division | Scottish Government

From: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>

Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 4:40 PM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Galloway National Park - next steps

Thanks [REDACTED]

Looking forward to it

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>

Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 4:30 PM

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>; [REDACTED]@sose.scot>;

Subject: RE: Galloway National Park - next steps

Many thanks for getting in touch – it would be great to catch up as you suggest.

Many thanks.

Email: [REDACTED]@sose.scot



Subject: RE: Galloway National Park - next steps

Owing to the unique position of South of Scotland Enterprise as a stakeholder in the region, your organisation's role will be key to this next phase and I would like to thank you for reaching out to offer your continued support the next stage of the process.

As you have noted, [REDACTED] is on leave currently, however would you and your team be available 4pm on Tuesday 30 July with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) to discuss the next steps? I can also confirm that we are liaising with private office regarding the meeting with the [REDACTED]

Please let me know if this will be suitable (and who to attend) and I can issue invitations this afternoon.

Best,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Biodiversity Team | Nature
Division | Scottish Government

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 1:40 PM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Correspondence from Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands

[REDACTED]

Hi all – just got [REDACTED] out of office response – as you can see (below) we're keen to talk through informally next steps following today's NP announcement. Can you steer us to who is best placed to do that while [REDACTED] is on leave.

Many thanks.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 1:32 PM
To: [REDACTED] [@gov.scot](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Correspondence from Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands

[REDACTED]

Brilliant to see today's announcement – what a great outcome and a fantastic opportunity for Galloway.

[REDACTED] will, of course, be responding formally to [REDACTED] letter and is very happy for SOSE to continue to engage and support the next steps in the process. He will accept the suggestion of a meeting with the [REDACTED] to talk through next steps.

Could we get together before that meeting to talk through informally expectations and how the process might work? Clearly NatureScot have a very specific statutory role and we need to respect that but we are keen to be as helpful as possible. We know that there will be challenge in the consultation process and lots of differing views and we would be keen to help steer the way as appropriate.

Many thanks.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 11:33 AM
To: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Subject: FW: Correspondence from Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands

Hi - Please find letter attached.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 11:28 AM
To: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Correspondence from Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands

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Dear [REDACTED]

Please see attached correspondence from [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Professor Russel Griggs OBE
Chair@sose.scot

Jane Morrison-Ross:
Chief.executive@sose.scot

22 July 2024

Dear Russel

Proposal for a new National Park in Galloway

I am writing to you to provide an update on the Scottish Government's commitment to designate at least one new National Park by 2026.

Following the conclusion of the new National Park appraisal process, I am very pleased to inform you that we are proposing to establish a new National Park in Galloway. I hope that this will come as very good news given the supportive role that you and the SOSE leadership team have played during the exploration and development of the Galloway nomination.

The proposal for a new National Park in Galloway has been laid in Parliament this morning and it will be published on the Scottish Government website following today's announcement: [National Parks - Landscape and outdoor access - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/national-parks-landscape-and-outdoor-access)

In terms of next steps, a 'Reporter' – in this case NatureScot – will lead further work on the proposal, including extensive consultation and engagement with local communities, businesses, stakeholders, public bodies and interest groups. This will include engagement and consultation with the agriculture, forestry and other land-based sectors given their importance within the area. And of course it will involve significant discussion and exploration of the proposal with the three local authorities and other public bodies operating within the area. We would be grateful for your involvement and support with this next phase of work.

A new National Park in Galloway should take account of local circumstances and the views of local communities. It should deliver environmental benefits alongside economic growth. It should support the visitor economy and have a positive impact on people's social, mental and physical health. And it should be cost-efficient and contribute to the public sector reform

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agenda, for example through streamlined governance and the use of shared services, expertise and premises with other public bodies.

The public consultation that takes place during the reporter phase will gauge support for the National Park proposal and it will look at specifics like the proposed boundary, the desirability of the area as a National Park and what powers and functions it should have.

The Reporter is required to provide its findings to the Scottish Government by 28 April 2025 and the report will be laid in Parliament. If we decide to proceed with the National Park proposal – with or without modification - secondary legislation will then need to be developed, consulted on and approved by Parliament in order to designate the new National Park.

I look forward to working together on this proposal over the coming months and I would be happy to meet you and Jane to discuss this exciting opportunity and to answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely,



MAIRI GOUGEON

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Mairi Gougeon MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

E: CabSecforRALRI@gov.scot

22 July 2024

Dear Mairi,

Re: your letter of 22 July regarding the Proposal for a new National Park in Galloway

Thank you for your letter of 22 July announcing that, following the conclusion of the National Park appraisal process, the Scottish Government is proposing to establish a new National Park in Galloway. As you can imagine I was delighted - this is very good news indeed and represents a significant opportunity for our region.

SOSE would be very happy to continue to engage and support in whatever way it can the next steps of the designation process. We recognise, of course, the statutory role of NatureScot but would be delighted to work alongside them and assist them as the consultation process progresses. As we have discussed before, it will be important to bring the differing views to the table to ensure that we develop a proposition which meets the needs of the communities, environment and economy of Galloway and the wider region.

Jane and I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you in the very near future to discuss the opportunity and how SOSE can best support the work in the coming months.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Russel Griggs, OBE
Chair
South of Scotland Enterprise

and it sets out the potential benefits that designation could make to the environment, the economy and to local communities. The proposal also provides evidence of support for a new National Park from local communities, stakeholders and businesses.

The proposal to designate a new National Park in Galloway was laid in Parliament this morning and it has been published on our [website](#).

It is important to recognise that, at this stage, it is still a proposal. NatureScot – in its role as ‘Reporter’ – has been asked by the Cabinet Secretary to lead further work to investigate the proposal. This will include extensive public consultation with local people, communities, businesses, local authorities, community councils, relevant public bodies and interest groups. Consultation with the agriculture, forestry and other land-based sectors will be an important element given their importance within the area.

The public consultation will gauge support for a new National Park in Galloway and it will also look at specifics like the proposed boundary, the desirability of the area as a National Park and which powers and functions would be most appropriate. Ministers have been clear that a new National Park in Galloway should contribute to Scottish Government priorities – notably tackling the climate emergency, growing the economy and contributing to public sector reform. It should also take account of local circumstances and it should help to meet the needs of local communities.

The Reporter has been asked to provide a report to the Scottish Government on the proposal by 28 April 2025 and the report will be laid in Parliament. If Ministers decide to proceed with the National Park proposal – with or without modification - secondary legislation will then need to be developed, consulted on and approved by Parliament in order to designate the new National Park.

In order to discuss the next stages in more detail, including a presentation from NatureScot colleagues on the next stage, we are proposing that a meeting take place on 27th August from 14:00-15:30 and we would be grateful if you could hold this slot in your diaries. We will be issuing an invitation for an online meeting shortly and I hope to see you there.

Yours Sincerely,

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Nature Division | Directorate for Environment and Forestry | [Redacted]

[Redacted]

T: [Redacted]

SG Saltire Logo



From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: National Park - SOSE telephone call request
Date: 29 July 2024 11:52:00
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Hi [REDACTED]

Many thanks for your help and for issuing the invitation, that is much appreciated.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot > On Behalf Of [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 11:48 AM
To: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>; [REDACTED]@sose.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: National Park - SOSE telephone call request

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Good morning [REDACTED]

I have issued an invite with MS Teams Link for the call tomorrow morning including the attendees mentioned below.

Please let me know if there are any issues.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Ministerial Private Office | The Scottish Government

[REDACTED]@gov.scot



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From: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 10:57 AM
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Subject: RE: National Park - SOSE telephone call request

Good morning,

Following on from my earlier email below, would it be possible for you to include [REDACTED] in the Teams invitation for tomorrow morning, please?

[REDACTED] is [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] is keen for [REDACTED] to join please.

[REDACTED] email address is – [REDACTED] [@sose.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sose.scot)

Thank you for your help.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 9:20 AM
To: [REDACTED] [@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)
Cc: [REDACTED] [@sose.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sose.scot); [REDACTED] [@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)
Subject: RE: National Park - SOSE telephone call request

Good morning [REDACTED]

Thank you very much for your email below, offering a time for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to meet with [REDACTED] (09.30am tomorrow morning, 30 July).

I can confirm that that time would be ideal, thank you – please can we accept. Please note however that [REDACTED] is on leave this week, and so please could we ask that [REDACTED] [REDACTED], joins [REDACTED] on the call, rather than [REDACTED]

Just to confirm the email addresses for purposes of the invitation then, they are:

[REDACTED] [@gmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@gmail.com) and please also copy in [REDACTED] [@sose.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sose.scot)

[REDACTED] [@sose.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sose.scot)

Many thanks once again and please do let me know if there's anything else I can assist with.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

South of Scotland Enterprise

Telephone: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED] [@sose.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sose.scot)



www.southofscotlandenterprise.com

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:15 AM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Subject: RE: National Park - SOSE telephone call request

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Good Morning [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

Would [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] be available for a call tomorrow (Tues 30 July) at 09:30 with [REDACTED]? If this is suitable, I will send across a MS Teams link for the meeting.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] box will close at 14:00 on Monday - Thursday and 12:00 on Fridays.
You can find [REDACTED] updated preferences [HERE](#).

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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 3:29 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Subject: National Park - SOSE telephone call request

Good afternoon,

Further to the letter to [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] offer to meet with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to discuss the National Park proposal and [REDACTED] letter in response of 22 July – would it be possible for a 15 to 20 minute MS Teams call to be arranged for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to discuss the opportunity as soon as is possible for [REDACTED] diary?

I look forward to hearing from you.

With many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@sose.scot

My working days are Tue, Wed, Thurs & Fri



<https://carbonliteracy.com/>

www.southofscotlandenterprise.com

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 August 2024 15:34
To: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>
Subject: RE: National Park update - SOSE Chair / [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED],

No worries at all – I hope all is OK.

I will move the meeting to 4.30pm tomorrow.

Thank you for your help.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@Parliament.scot> **On Behalf Of** [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 3:32 PM
To: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Subject: RE: National Park update - SOSE Chair / [REDACTED]

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Hi [REDACTED]

Apologies – I'm not quite sure what has happened. I have tried to ring [REDACTED] and have not been able to get through. [REDACTED] should be able to do 4.30 pm tomorrow.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 3:22 PM

To: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED].@sose.scot>
Subject: RE: National Park update - SOSE Chair / [REDACTED]

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Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] didn't manage to join the call this afternoon, and [REDACTED] wondered if it might be possible to reschedule please?

Would [REDACTED] have any availability tomorrow at all – between 11.30am – 12.30pm or after 3.00pm?

Many thanks.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 11:00 AM
To: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>
Subject: RE: National Park update - SOSE Chair / [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for coming back to me – tomorrow at 3pm would be great, thanks.

I will send a Teams invitation across to this address now.

Thanks again!

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@Parliament.scot> **On Behalf Of** [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 10:47 AM

To: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>

Subject: RE: National Park update - SOSE Chair / [REDACTED]

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Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for your email.

[REDACTED] would have time tomorrow at 3.00pm if that's alright?

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>

Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 9:41 AM

To: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>

Subject: National Park update - SOSE Chair / [REDACTED]

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Good morning,

I am emailing on behalf of [REDACTED], to ask if it would be possible to arrange a short (15-minute) call with [REDACTED] please, so that [REDACTED] can provide an update on the National Park discussion.

As [REDACTED] is going to be heading away on leave on Thursday, [REDACTED] wondered if it might be possible to arrange something before then (ie today, Tuesday or Wednesday this week)?

I would be grateful if you could please advise whether any of the slots below may be possible for a 15-minute call, and I will send out a Teams invitation if so:

- Today (Monday 26 August), between 1.30 – 4.00pm
- Tuesday 27 August, between either 10.00 – 10.30am, or, 3.00 – 5.00pm
- Wednesday 28 August, after 3.00pm

Many thanks for your assistance.

Best wishes,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
South of Scotland Enterprise

Telephone: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@sose.scot



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From: [redacted]@nature.scot>
Sent: 30 August 2024 16:50
To: [redacted]@sose.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@sose.scot>; [redacted]
[redacted]@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: In Confidence: Stakeholders for NP engagement

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Thanks [redacted]

That's all really helpful and yes lets catch-up when you are back on line from the 6th

Best wishes

[redacted]

[redacted] | [NatureScot](#) | [NàdarAlba](#) |
[redacted]

From: [redacted]@sose.scot>
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2024 6:05 PM
To: [redacted]@nature.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@sose.scot>; [redacted]
[redacted]@nature.scot>
Subject: In Confidence: Stakeholders for NP engagement

Hi [redacted]

[redacted] has done a great job in compiling a draft list of stakeholders for NP engagement – and my apologies, I've haven't had time to contribute and am about to go off on leave, back online on the 6th.

So to keep momentum going I've attached the draft stakeholder spreadsheet and the (In Confidence) proposal [redacted] made for us on equalities engagement which might be helpful in framing your work. I can pick this up when I'm back but [redacted] has offered to support the provision of contact details where you may have gaps (and where we have up

to date information).

I've also spoken to [REDACTED], our [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and one of the members and they are happy to work with you in this process.

Be good to touch base again when I'm back properly w/b 9th.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@sose.scot

[REDACTED]



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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>
Sent: 06 September 2024 16:38
To: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: National Park - help with some general information

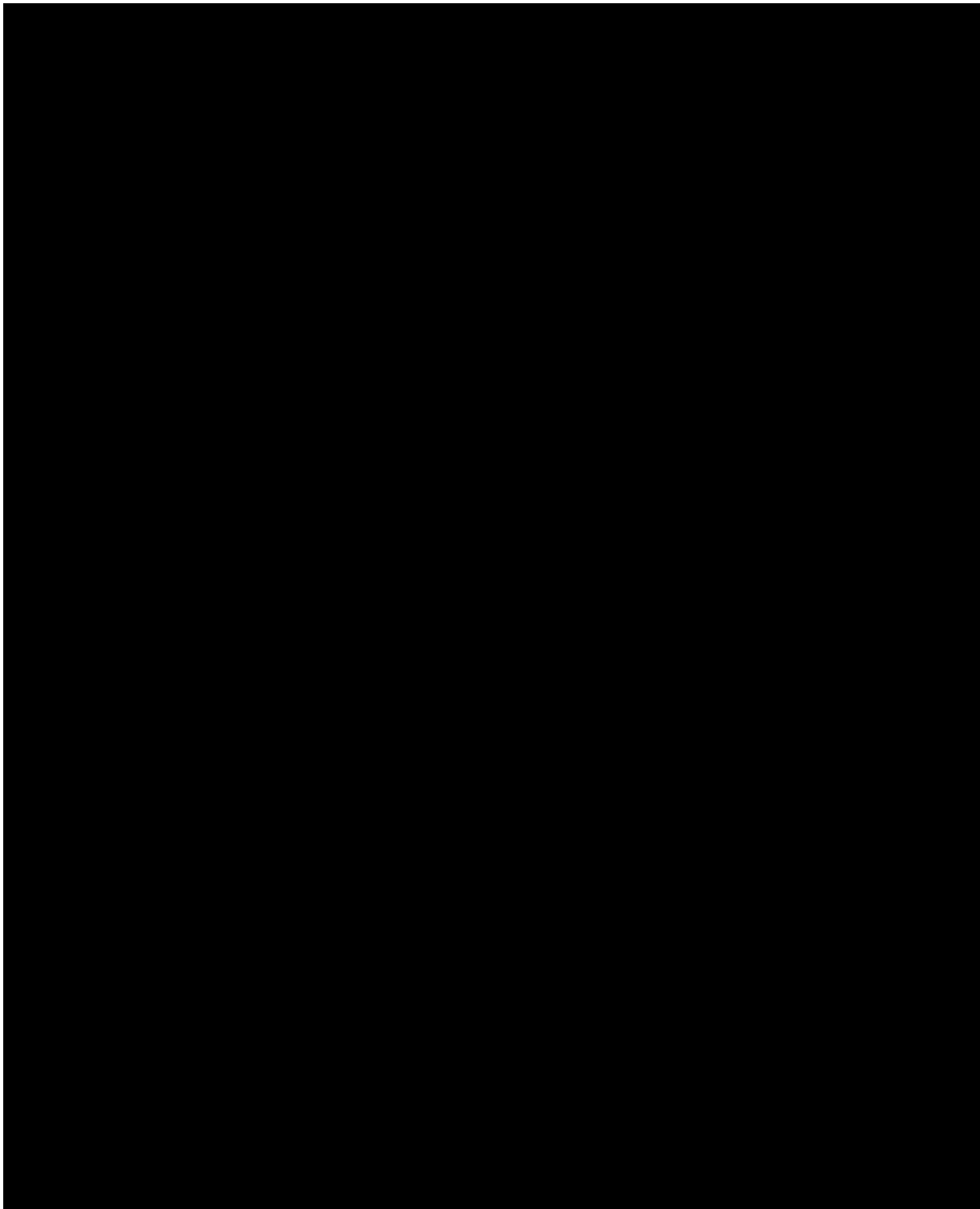
Caution: This email originated outside of the organisation. **Think** before you click on any links or open any attachments. Is it safe to do so? **Always** carry out appropriate checks or use the Report Message button if suspicious.

Hi [REDACTED]

Hope you had a good break and thanks again for sending in the information on your youth and ethnic minority engagement work.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]



[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

| NatureScot | NàdarAlba |

[Redacted]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 9:02 AM
To: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@nature.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Subject: RE: National Park - help with some general information

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | NatureScot | NàdarAlba |
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2024 10:16 AM
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@nature.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: National Park - help with some general information

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
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- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 October 2024 10:02
To: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: National Park

Hi [REDACTED]

That's great, and what we were thinking.

I've sent to you and [REDACTED] please pass onto anyone else.

Look forward to seeing you later

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>
Sent: 15 October 2024 09:34
To: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Subject: RE: National Park

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Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you.

I think it makes sense for everyone who's available to connect in the same meeting, as you suggest,

Regards, [REDACTED].

From: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Sent: 15 October 2024 09:26
To: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: National Park

Hi [REDACTED] that's great I will send on the invite. And let's chat at 2, I'll suggest 3.30 on a Thursday to everyone. At the moment we have [REDACTED] Visit Scotland and SSDA today.

Are you happy with everyone in the same space to connect each week?

Look forward to seeing you later

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nature.scot>

Sent: 15 October 2024 09:22

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>

Subject: RE: National Park

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Hello [REDACTED],

Thank you, I did (though a bit chilly) – hope you had a fine weekend too.

I'm sorry not to reply yesterday. I've checked with [REDACTED] and we're both free at 2pm this afternoon if that still suits for us to drop-in.

For a regular slot, would Thursdays at 3.30 be workable for you? Would be looking at week beginning 28th October for those to commence.

Regards, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NatureScot | [REDACTED] | M [REDACTED]
nature.scot | [\[REDACTED\]@nature.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@nature.scot) | Scotland's Nature Agency | Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>

Sent: 14 October 2024 09:10

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nature.scot>

Subject: RE: National Park

Hi [REDACTED]

Hope you had a lovely weekend.

I am trying to set up a regular meeting with yourselves, Visit Scotland and SSDA and us.

Is there a good time in the week for you all? I could set up a regular slot and whoever is available can drop in. We are meeting with VS and SSDA tomorrow at 2pm – 3pm.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 October 2024 10:22
To: [REDACTED]@nature.scot; [REDACTED]@nature.scot; [REDACTED]@nature.scot;
[REDACTED]@nature.scot
Subject: National Park

Hi all

Hope you are having a good week.

I am supporting [REDACTED] with the National Park work at SOSE and would like to try to set up a Teams meeting with us all early next week if possible?

Would you have availability on Tuesday afternoon between 2pm and 5pm for an hour or more if that would be useful?

Looking forward to meeting you.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@sose.scot

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[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@nature.scot>
Sent: 27 November 2024 15:21
To: [Redacted]@ssdalliance.com>; [Redacted]
[Redacted]@visitscotland.com>; [Redacted]@sose.scot>
Cc: [Redacted]@sose.scot>; [Redacted]@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: NP - Cairngorms

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All

Yes, I think this would be helpful additional stakeholder event especially if it allowed some peer-to-peer discussion – I’m presuming VS/SSDA/SOSE would be happy to organise?

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | NatureScot | NàdarAlba | [Redacted]
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@ssdalliance.com>
Sent: 25 November 2024 13:32
To: [Redacted]@visitscotland.com>; [Redacted]@sose.scot>
Cc: [Redacted]@sose.scot>; [Redacted]
[Redacted]@nature.scot>
Subject: Re: NP - Cairngorms

Yes, I think this sounds like a good idea.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

South of Scotland Destination Alliance (SSDA)

'Scotland Starts Here'

Email : [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

www.ssdalliance.com

www.scotlandstartshere.com

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@visitscotland.com>

Sent: 22 November 2024 10:06 AM

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nature.scot>;

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ssdalliance.com>

Subject: RE: NP - Cairngorms

Thanks [REDACTED], it's a helpful offer.

[REDACTED] – Following the conversations from your SSDA Locally Led sessions do you think this is something that would be helpful?

We mentioned the potential of perhaps doing something online in early 2025 to encourage participation in run-up to the close of consultation.

Happy to chat through further.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

VisitScotland

M: [REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>

Sent: 22 November 2024 09:40

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@visitscotland.com>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nature.scot>;

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ssdalliance.com>

Subject: NP - Cairngorms

This email originated from outside of VisitScotland. Please do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi [REDACTED]

Seems like a good offer but not sure of practicalities at your end.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@sose.scot



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From: [REDACTED]@cairngorms.co.uk>

Sent: 22 November 2024 09:08

To: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>

Subject: RE: Castle Douglas event

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[REDACTED]

I have almost defrosted! Happy to pull together but also happy to offer up a session with myself and the ceo of the Cairngorms Business Partnership for tourism businesses in the area – could do something on-line one evening? As a very non-scientific straw poll I talked with a few businesses on Castle Douglas high street and all were in favour but didn't want to say anything in public because of the vociferous no campaign!

Interesting times

All the best

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Sent: 21 November 2024 17:34
To: [REDACTED]@cairngorms.co.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Subject: Castle Douglas event

Hi [REDACTED]

Sorry I never got a chance to speak to you at the Town Hall last night – good discussion but it was so cold.

We've had one of our regular NP data sessions this afternoon and VisitScotland fed back that an event they'd held with tourism businesses highlighted a general lack of knowledge of NPs as a concept. So they are struggling to understand the impact the Galloway proposal might have on their businesses. I mentioned the talk you gave and wondered if we might be able to use those facts and figures you quoted? If they could be shared, we could distil on a one pager and share with VisitScotland, for them to share with their networks.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@sose.scot



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EF

From: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>
Sent: 02 December 2024 08:50
To: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Subject: RE: REP

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Morning [REDACTED]

Yes, I appreciate that – if we can find a slot!

I'm attending the consultation events this week but the following may be possible - Weds 4th – between 0830-0930 or 1500-1600?; Thurs 5th – 1500-1700?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | NatureScot | NàdarAlba |

From: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Sent: 01 December 2024 14:49
To: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: REP

Thanks [REDACTED]. Not sure how diaries can be juggled but do you want a quick chat in advance?

Cheers

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>

Sent: 01 December 2024 09:03

To: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>

Subject: FW: REP

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[REDACTED]

For info and action if required (I think [REDACTED] is on leave).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | NatureScot | NàdarAlba |

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>

Sent: 01 December 2024 09:01

To: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@dumgal.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@scotborders.gov.uk

Subject: FW: REP

All

It was suggested at the last SoS team meeting that I should provide some briefing for your CEOs for this.

On reflection, I'm not entirely sure what this should cover, but here are some of the main things I was going to highlight in the presentation to complement the attached briefing paper we have prepared.

- National Parks are one of the world's iconic brands. But in Scotland we are using them as a tool to care for and invest in natural capital at a landscape scale.
- All of the National Park aims are about making positive things happen – nature recovery; sustainable land-use, understanding and enjoyment (growing the visitor economy) and social and economic development of local communities. While conservation is hardwired in, this can only be delivered if all the aims are delivered.
- Our investigation of the National Park proposal is a means to test whether a National Park is the right mechanism at the right time for Galloway. It's not a done deal. Scottish Ministers will only decide on whether to proceed with designation once they

have considered NatureScot's advice in Spring next year

- If it went ahead, a Galloway National Park
 - would need to support the key land-use sectors of particular importance to the area – farming, forestry, renewables, and tourism;
 - would need to work closely with its communities, land managers, local authorities and public bodies across the area;
 - is likely to be different in operation and approach from the existing two as a result of its physical, human and cultural geography
 - If a National Park is designed and run well, it will support a range of SoS strategies for social and economic development.
- As Reporter, NatureScot is undertaking an open, transparent and inclusive reporting process. Don't believe everything you read or hear!
- The formal consultation is now live – extended to Feb 14th. So far, we are satisfied with how the consultation is going with good attendance and a range of contributions across the public consultation events, circa 500 short or long surveys completed and a small number of household surveys returned. The format of the public events is being tweaked in light of experience with more emphasis placed on their drop-in nature but overall, though we are pleased with the welcoming, inclusive and participatory format and delivery of them by Out of the Box. 30 such events are now planned.
- We recognise the hopes, fears and passion on both sides this proposal has generated. In providing good advice to Ministers, we will provide a thorough analysis of all the views presented to us. We will need to take a view on whether there is sufficient support for the proposal to proceed or whether alternative approaches should be considered instead. We also need to develop proposals which meet the conditions of the Act for Park status, including consideration of the special needs of the area that a National Park would be best placed to address.
- We are wanting a good response to the consultation and are particularly looking to all the REP bodies to respond to it whatever their eventual position

Hope this is helpful and look forward to the discussion next week



NatureScot | NàdarAlba |



From: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Sent: 29 November 2024 09:27
To: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Subject: RE: REP

Many thanks, [REDACTED] timing of paper was ideal – it went out with the rest of the papers!
No problem with just sharing a PowerPoint on the day. We normally circulate presentations to the REP after the meeting, so please let me know if this is acceptable.

Please could you also confirm who will be joining the meeting from NatureScot.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>
Sent: 28 November 2024 17:04
To: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Subject: RE: REP

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Hi [REDACTED]

Short paper attached – I hope its suitable style/format for the meeting.

I will have a ppt to share on the day, but I presume I do not need to provide this in advance?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [NatureScot](#) | [NàdarAlba](#) |
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [@sose.scot](#)>
Sent: 26 November 2024 16:27
To: [REDACTED] [@nature.scot](#)>
Subject: RE: REP

Hi [REDACTED]

That would be great – the sooner you could get the paper over to us the better, as we'll begin circulating papers to REP members this week.

And some slides on the day is fine too

Let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED] [@sose.scot](#)



From: [REDACTED] [@nature.scot](#)>
Sent: 26 November 2024 16:13
To: [REDACTED] [@sose.scot](#)>
Subject: RE: REP

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Hi [REDACTED]

Happy to supply one if that would be useful/normal. I was also planning to deliver a short ppt too

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | NatureScot | NàdarAlba |
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Sent: 26 November 2024 13:36
To: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Subject: REP

Hi [REDACTED],

Hope you are well

We wanted to check if you/NatureScot need us to share a paper before the REP meeting next week (6th)?

Look forward to hearing back.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@sose.scot





[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@nature.scot>
Sent: 16 December 2024 18:17
To: [Redacted]@east-ayrshire.gov.uk>; [Redacted]
[Redacted]@south-ayrshire.gov.uk>
Cc: [Redacted]@sose.scot>; [Redacted]@dumgal.gov.uk>; [Redacted]
[Redacted]@visitscotland.com>; [Redacted]@sose.scot>; [Redacted]
[Redacted]@nature.scot>
Subject: National Park follow-up

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Hi both

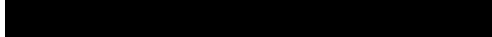
A couple of follow-ups from the recent briefing sessions. I'm copying colleagues from SOSE, VS and D&GC who have been helping us pull this work together who may want to add more detail

- **Data bulletin** for each of three options (including EAC and SAC) – see attached. This identifies the data zones covering the three options to allow comparison between them in terms of various social and economic data sets including population, housing, and GVA. We are wanting to develop this further with other data sets including forest cover and agricultural land use classification and hopefully also planning statistics too.
Thoughts very welcome
- **Visitor spend in Scotland National Parks.** VS have produced this - <https://www.visitscotland.org/research-insights/regions/national-parks> and the latest STEAM statistics produced for both existing Parks can be found here e.g. <https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/park-authority/what-we-do/national-park-partnership-plan-2018-2023/delivering-partnership-plan-year-1-5/indicator-7-visitor-economy> and <https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/CNP-2019-Narrative.pdf> other. Other reports worth looking at include <https://aprs.scot/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/SCNP-Report-3-Tourism-and-the-Economy.pdf> and <https://www.scotlink.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/National-Parks-Report-Digital.pdf>. There are also some useful facts and figures about the very different sizes, visitor numbers and spend across all 15 UK National Parks here - <https://www.nationalparks.uk/app/uploads/2020/10/Key-Facts-and-Figures-for-the-15-UK-National-Parks.pdf>

I hope this is helpful, though let me know if you have any other information needs we can build into this analysis. You or a colleague would also be very welcome to join us at our evidence and data meetings every other Thursday (the next one is on the 9th Jan)

Best wishes



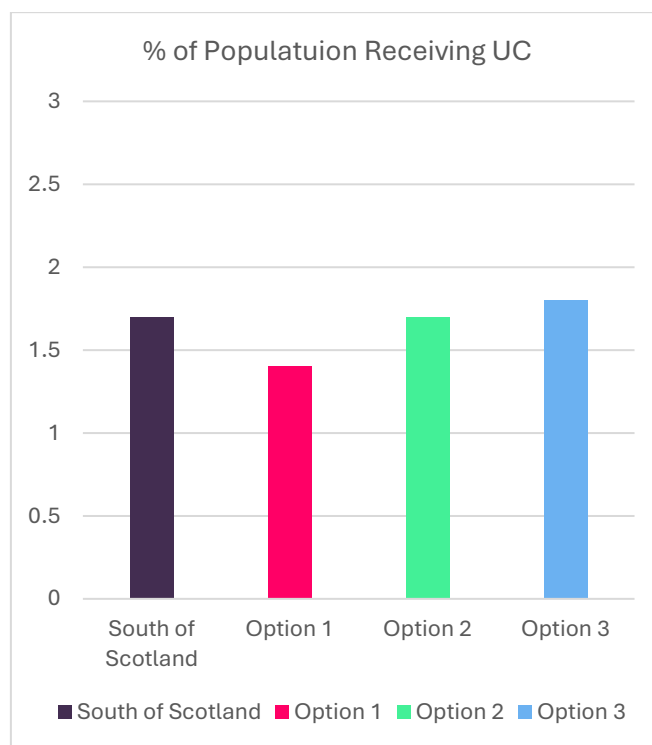
 | **NatureScot | NàdarAlba** |


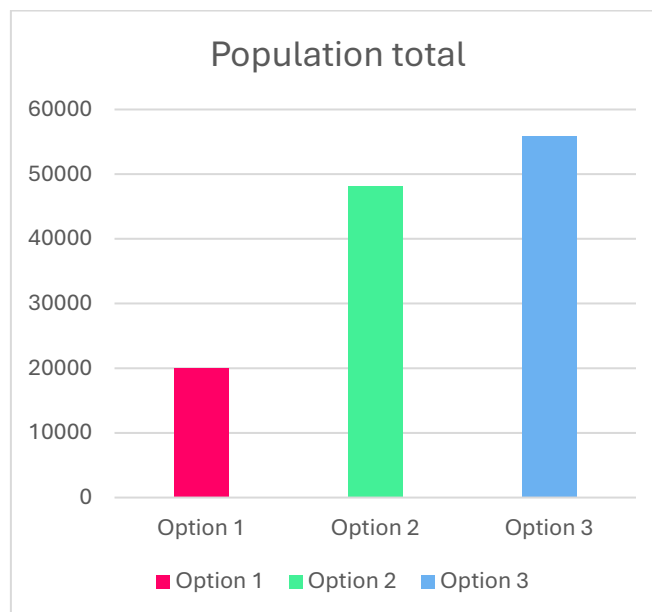
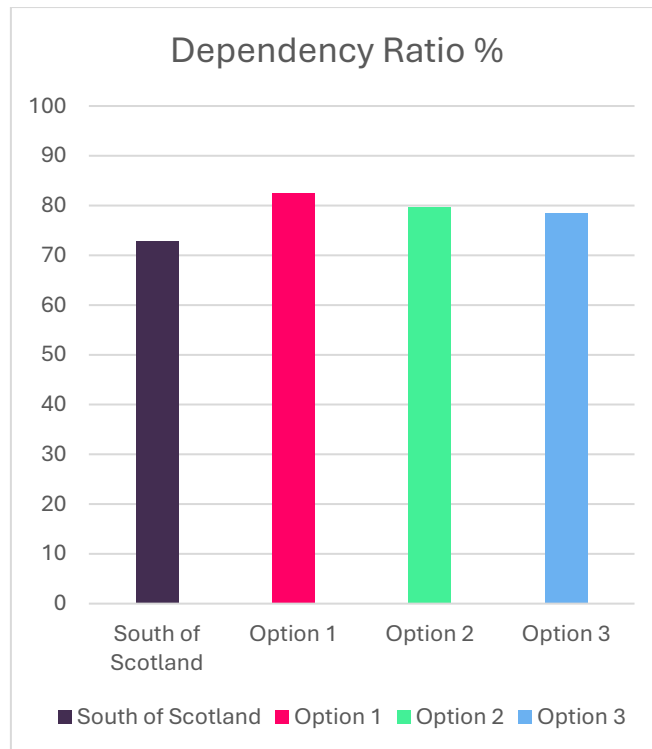
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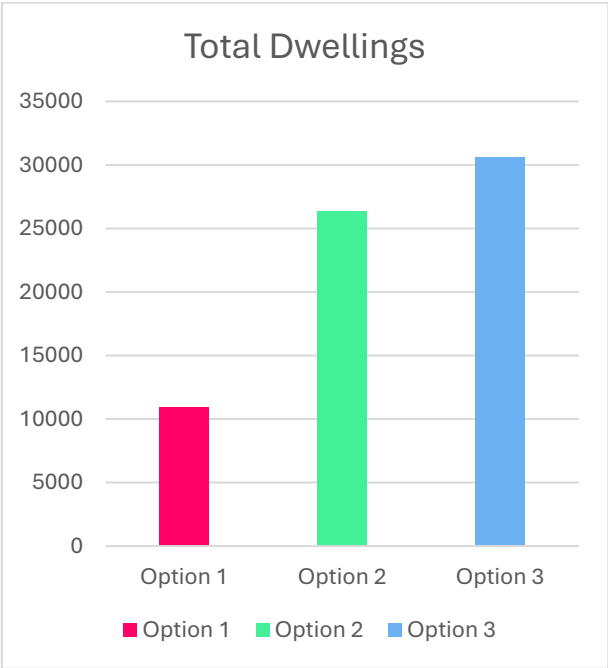
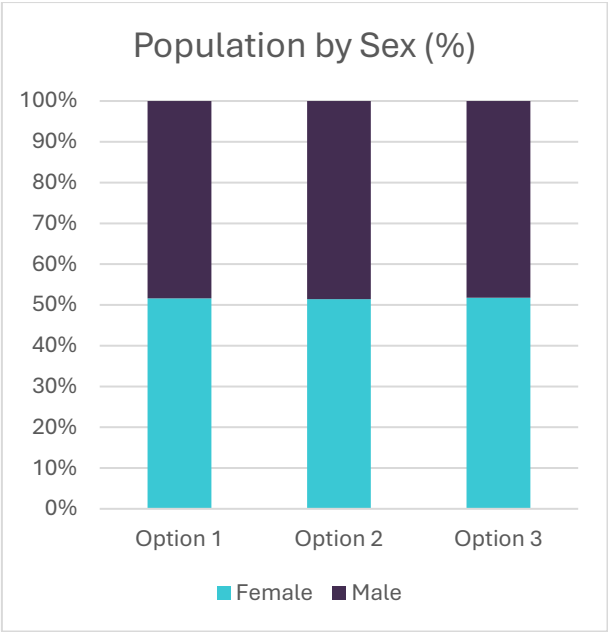
Tha am post-dealain seo agus fiosrachadh sam bith na chois dìomhair agus airson an neach no buidheann ainmichte a-mhàin. Mas e gun d' fhuair sibh am post-dealain seo le mearachd, cuiribh fios dhan manaidsear-siostaim no neach-sgrìobhaidh.

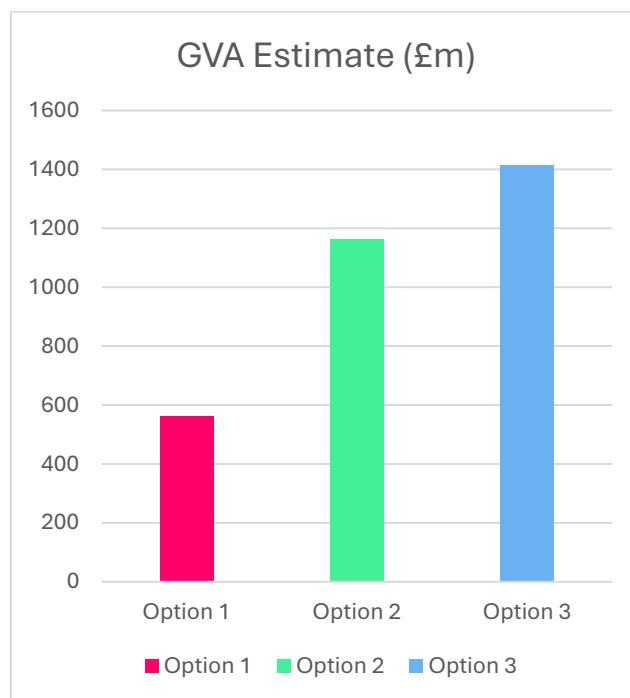
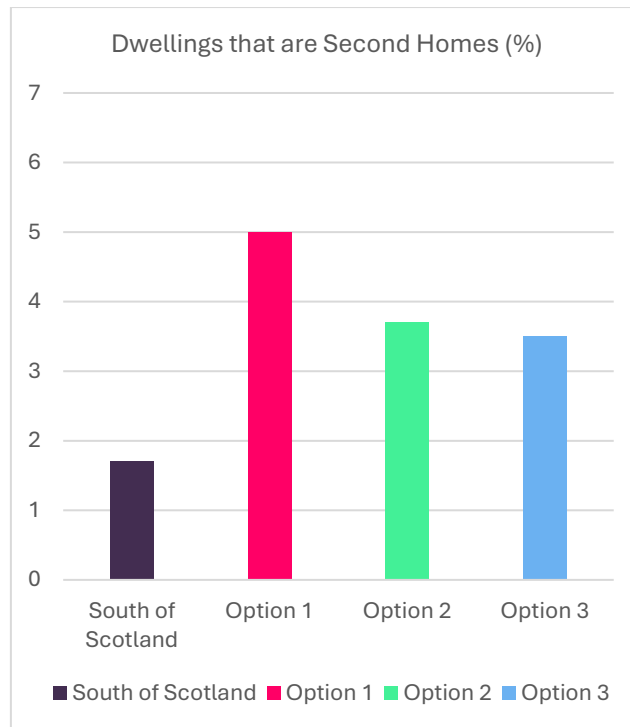
Thoiribh an aire airson adhbharan gnothaich, 's dòcha gun tèid sùil a chumail air puist-dealain a' tighinn a-steach agus a' dol a-mach bho NàdarAlba.

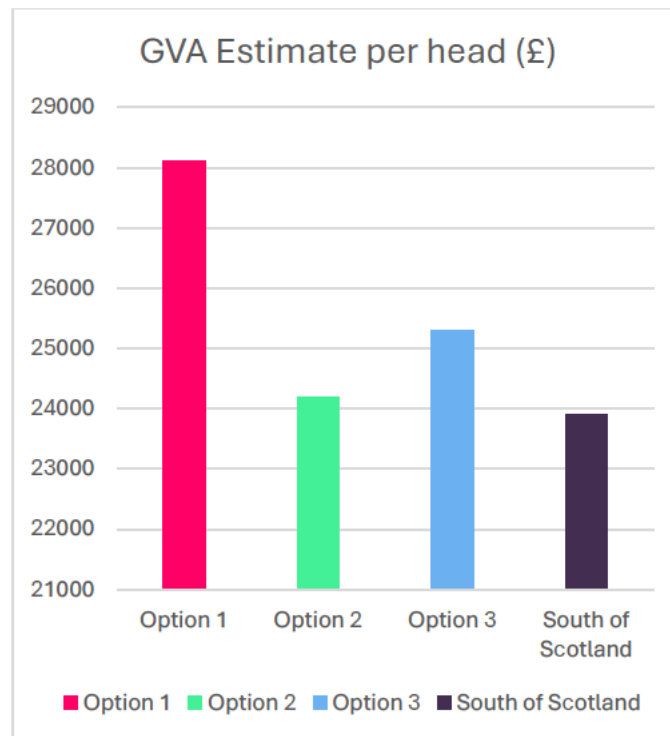
Measure	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	South of Scotland
Population	20037	48103	55906	263733
Male/Female %	48.4/51.6	48.6/51.4	48.4/51.6	48.5/51.5
Dependency Ratio	82.35%	79.71%	78.39%	72.93%
Universal Credit Claimant Count	285 (1.4%)	835 (1.7%)	1025 (1.8%)	4600 (1.7%)
Total Dwellings (Estimated)	10940	26349	30601	136652
Second Homes count and percentage (Estimated)	554 (5%)	984 (3.7%)	1069 (3.5%)	2437 (1.7%)
Average Household Size	2.06	2.03	2.04	2.06
GVA Estimate (in £ millions)	563.4	1163.92	1414.46	6297.09
GVA per person (£)	28100	24200	25300	23900





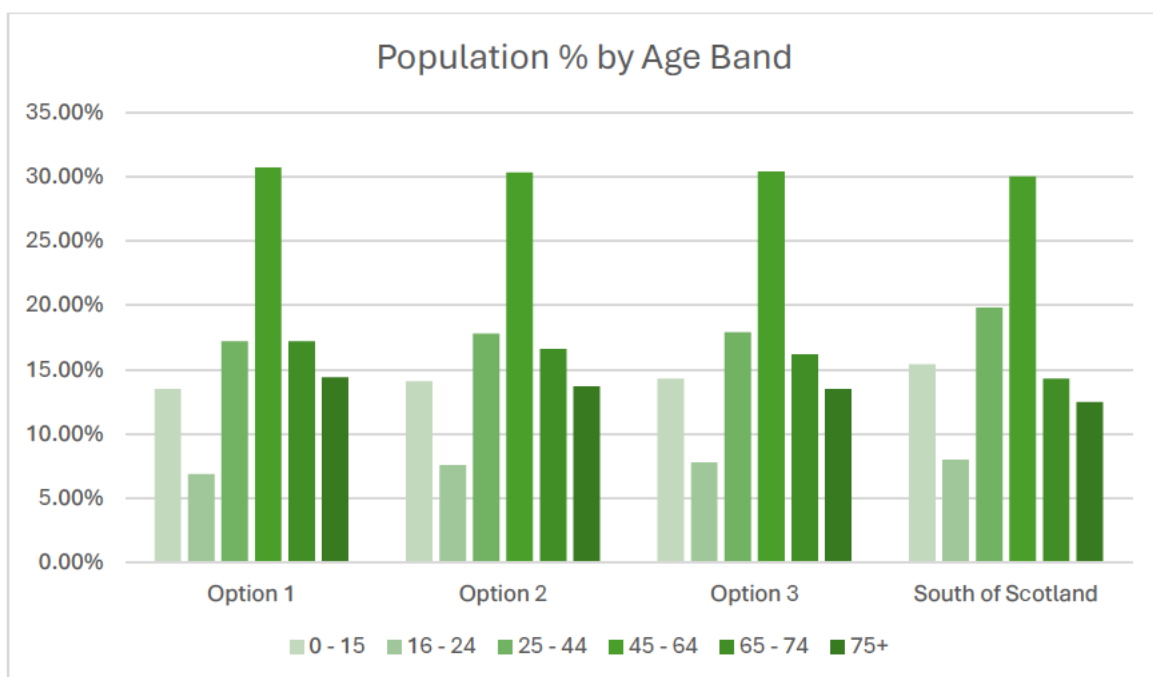




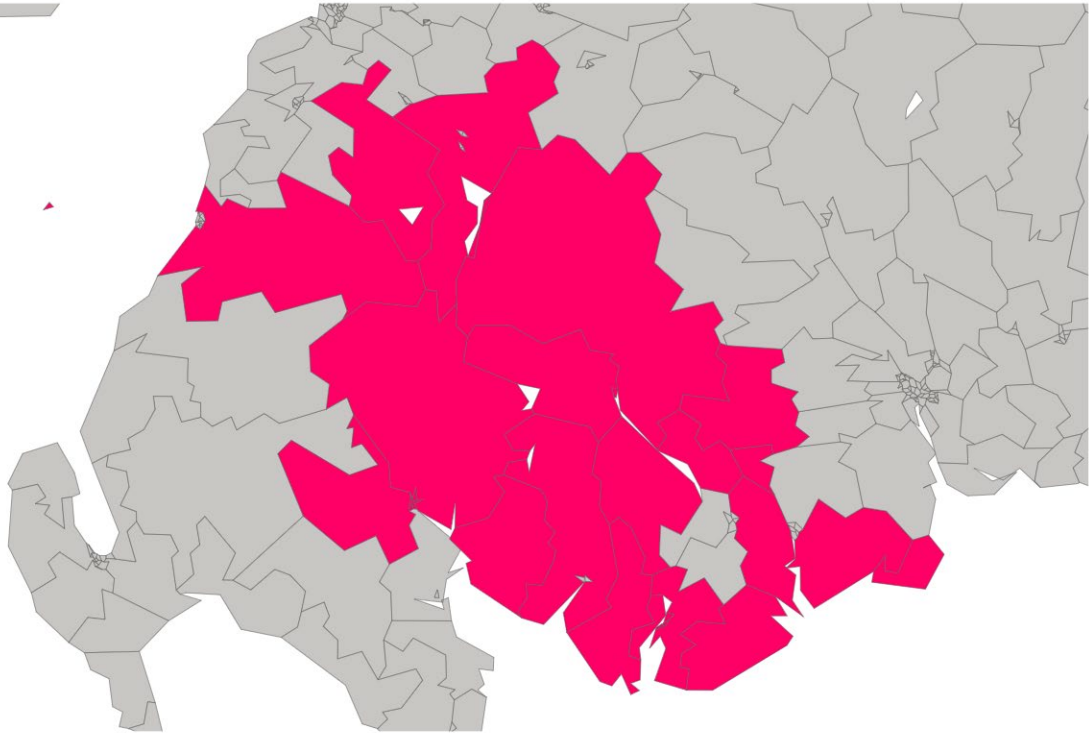


Population by Age Band

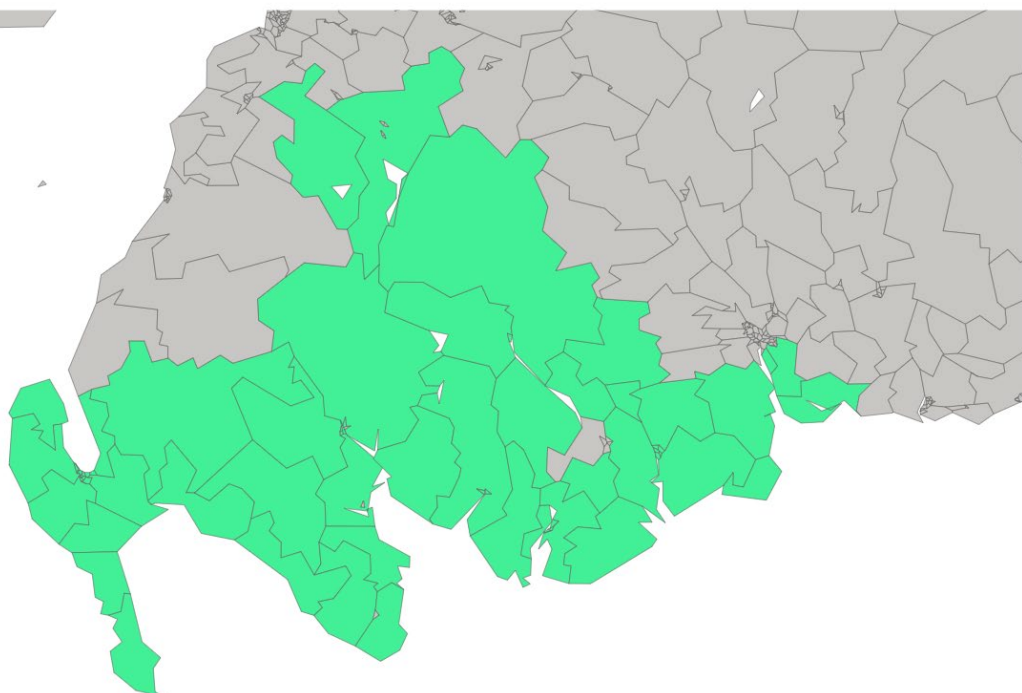
Area	0 - 15	16 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 - 74	75+
Option 1	13.5%	6.9%	17.2%	30.7%	17.2%	14.4%
Option 2	14.1%	7.6%	17.8%	30.3%	16.6%	13.7%
Option 3	14.3%	7.8%	17.9%	30.4%	16.2%	13.5%
South of Scotland	15.4%	8.0%	19.8%	30.0%	14.3%	12.5%



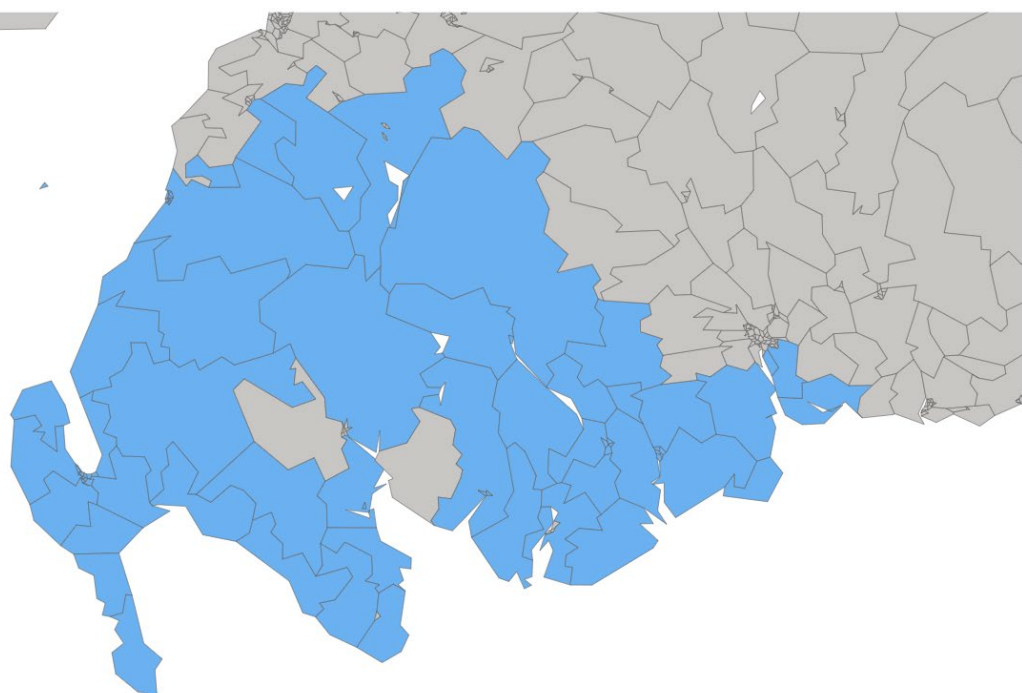
Area ● Option 1



Area ● Option 2



Area ● Option 3



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>
Sent: 09 January 2025 09:31
To: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: 10th January meeting - apologies

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Hi [REDACTED] –

Thanks, I hope you had a good break too. [REDACTED] will manage next Thursday (I can't, apologies).

We've not looked at responses in detail yet.

So far requests are mostly related to transport and other infrastructure and services. Councillors that [REDACTED] met yesterday were interested in economic impact of the existing NPs (particularly in the first 5 years). Is it something that the D&C work on GVA can help with, depending how that is progressing?

Kind regards, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Sent: 09 January 2025 08:48
To: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: 10th January meeting - apologies

Hi [REDACTED]

No problem and thanks for letting me know .

Hope you both had a lovely Christmas and New Year.

Is it work putting off until next week?

I also wanted to ask if you had any interim indication on what people are wanting to see through the consultation and what the real temp is on the ground?

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nature.scot>

Sent: 08 January 2025 22:41

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>

Subject: 10th January meeting - apologies

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Hello [REDACTED], and Happy New Year.

I'm very sorry for the short notice, but [REDACTED] and I have National Park meetings in Galloway and Ayrshire tomorrow, and won't be able to attend the meeting we think is scheduled for 3.30pm.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NatureScot | [REDACTED] | M [REDACTED]
nature.scot | [@nature_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot) | Scotland's Nature Agency | Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 January 2025 10:06
To: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Subject: FW: Consultation on a proposal for a Galloway National Park

Update on the online session

From: [REDACTED]@ssdalliance.com>
Sent: 14 January 2025 09:39
To: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@visitscotland.com>; [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>
Subject: Re: Consultation on a proposal for a Galloway National Park

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Thanks [REDACTED]

We've kept to an hour so keeping the focus on the Cairngorms for this one but would be brilliant to have you, [REDACTED], on the call ready to jump in for any questions on the consultation, if okay.

Agenda:

5 mins - welcome from me, setting agenda, respectful discussion, etc

10 mins - [REDACTED] - giving overview of the Cairngorms National Park Authority: what it exists to do, experience since created, current activities, relationship with tourism and other industries etc.

10 mins - [REDACTED] - giving overview of the work of the Cairngorms Business Partnership & Visit Cairngorms - what businesses feel about having a national park.

10 mins - Q&A and with [REDACTED], in which [REDACTED] ask about the top issues which businesses have identified as concerns from the industry survey we did at the start of the process (<https://www.ssdalliance.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Galloway-National-Park-Initial-Tourism-Survey-Results-SUMMARY-v2.pdf>). If you can be ready to answer these questions:

- o has the national park caused **over tourism** with resultant issues of litter, problem motorhomes, dog mess, dirty camping, wild fires, loss of tranquility

etc?

- has the national park caused **infrastructure capacity issues**, such as the road and rail network?
- has the national park undermined other industries, such as **farming**?
- has the national park reduced **affordable housing** - pricing out local people and making it impossible for their children to stay?
- has the national park become **bureaucratic** and unwieldy
- has the national park slowed economic development by putting the brakes on **planning**?
- does the national park have to do what Scottish Government says / is there **local control**?

10 mins - Q&A and with me looking at the opportunities/positives, specifically

- What are the opportunities that the **park brand** affords?
 - What investment has there been in tourism **infrastructure**?
 - How does the Park Authority and the CBP **work together** to benefit businesses?
 - What would you see as the single **greatest achievement** of the national park to date?

10 mins - open Q&A from those attending.

5 mins - closing bits from me, encouraging people to take part in survey

Many thanks



South of Scotland Destination Alliance (SSDA)

'Scotland Starts Here'

Email :  [@ssdalliance.com](mailto: @ssdalliance.com)

Phone: 

Twitter: 

www.ssdalliance.com

www.scotlandstartshere.com

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nature.scot>
Sent: 13 January 2025 6:12 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ssdalliance.com>; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@visitscotland.com>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: Consultation on a proposal for a Galloway National Park

Hi [REDACTED]

Sorry for the delay in responding. It will probably be me, though I have meeting possible meeting clash for the first 30 mins of the meeting that I need to resolve. More anon

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | NatureScot | NàdarAlba | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ssdalliance.com>
Sent: 09 January 2025 10:00
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@visitscotland.com>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nature.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nature.scot>
Subject: Re: Consultation on a proposal for a Galloway National Park

Absolutely.

[REDACTED] - could you confirm who it will be.

Latest draft of promo copy attached

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

South of Scotland Destination Alliance (SSDA)

'Scotland Starts Here'

Email : [REDACTED]@ssdalliance.com

Phone: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

www.ssdalliance.com

www.scotlandstartshere.com

From: [REDACTED]@visitscotland.com>

Sent: 09 January 2025 9:56 AM

To: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>; [REDACTED]@sose.scot>;

[REDACTED]@ssdalliance.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>

Subject: RE: Consultation on a proposal for a Galloway National Park

Hi [REDACTED]

If someone from the NatureScot team has capacity to join the webinar and provide a short input I think that would be really helpful.

[REDACTED] will be joined by [REDACTED] from CBP to provide the insight from his perspective.

[REDACTED] – could we amend draft comms to reflect NatureScot input too?

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

VisitScotland

M: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nature.scot>
Sent: 09 January 2025 09:50
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@visitscotland.com>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>;
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ssdalliance.com>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: Consultation on a proposal for a Galloway National Park

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Thanks [REDACTED]

That's great. Are you thinking that a (short) NatureScot input would be useful for this or not?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | NatureScot | NàdarAlba | [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@visitscotland.com>
Sent: 09 January 2025 09:40
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nature.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ssdalliance.com>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nature.scot>
Subject: RE: Consultation on a proposal for a Galloway National Park

Hi [REDACTED]

Looking like 1330 on Wednesday 22 January is the preferred option for webinar for tourism businesses. [REDACTED] kindly drafting some appropriate comms and will coordinate invites via SSDA. We will amplify through our channels.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

VisitScotland

M: [REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@nature.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@nature.scot)>

Sent: 09 January 2025 09:29

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@visitscotland.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@visitscotland.com)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@sose.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sose.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ssdalliance.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ssdalliance.com)>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@nature.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@nature.scot)>

Subject: FW: Consultation on a proposal for a Galloway National Park

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Morning all (and a belated happy new year)

In light of exchange below, just wondering if we have progressed plans and date for the proposed online meeting involving [REDACTED]. This was going to be tourism sector focused of course, but I presume we can open it up more widely for any interested businesses?

Both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are on the consultation trail this pm so will unfortunately be not able to make this pm's catch-up, but happy to input further over the next couple of days.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@dgchamber.co.uk>

Sent: 08 January 2025 11:33

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@bgateway.com>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nature.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ayrshire-chamber.org>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nature.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nature.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@visitscotland.com>

Subject: RE: Consultation on a proposal for a Galloway National Park

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for getting in contact with us. We echo [REDACTED] view on this that an online session would be more beneficial for businesses in the region with the national park covering a vast region here in D&G.

If you could send over further details once the session is confirmed that would be great and we can let businesses know. Look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dumfries & Galloway Chamber of Commerce

[REDACTED]

Office: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

MANY BUSINESSES

ONE VOICE

DG Chamber is the region's premier business organisation. We have members in every part of Dumfries & Galloway, from Langholm to Lockerbie, Kirkton to Kirkcudbright, Sanquhar to Stranraer and Dalbeattie to Dumfries.



Networking & Events | Member Services | Policy & Campaigning

RUN BY LOCAL BUSINESS PEOPLE FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@bgateway.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@bgateway.com)>

Sent: 07 January 2025 15:06

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@nature.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@nature.scot)>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@dgchamber.co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@dgchamber.co.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ayrshire-chamber.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@ayrshire-chamber.org)>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@nature.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@nature.scot)>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@nature.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@nature.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@sose.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sose.scot)>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@visitscotland.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@visitscotland.com)>

Subject: Re: Consultation on a proposal for a Galloway National Park

[REDACTED]

From our point of view, I think the online sessions will be the best move for the businesses in our area.

We dont need an internal session on this as we covered in some detail here before Christmas with our colleagues in Economy and Environment.

We will push the online session once we get the details.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Business Gateway - Dumfries and Galloway Council

Tel: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@bgateway.com

Web: www.bgatewaydumgal.com

Social: www.facebook.com/businessgatewaydumfries

<https://www.instagram.com/businessgatewaydumfries/>

From: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>

Sent: 07 January 2025 09:26

To: [REDACTED]@dgchamber.co.uk [REDACTED]@dgchamber.co.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@bgateway.com>; [REDACTED]@ayrshire-chamber.org [REDACTED]@ayrshire-chamber.org>

Cc: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@nature.scot>; [REDACTED]@sose.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@visitscotland.com>

Subject: Consultation on a proposal for a Galloway National Park

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[REDACTED]

As you will hopefully be aware, NatureScot is currently undertaking a formal consultation on the Scottish Government proposal for a Galloway National Park (which could also extend into South and East Ayrshire) with the publication of the consultation document and both a summary and technical version of a survey on our website. . Click [here](#) for further details of the consultation (including the [map](#) of the options for the proposed area) and information on the public consultation events across the area. The deadline for

responses is **14 February 2025**.

We are very keen to hear the views of businesses on the proposal and would be grateful if you could promote the survey to relevant members.

The SSDA and VisitScotland are organising an online session on the proposal towards the end of this month for this business sector (date tbc) and we would be happy to organise something similar for businesses more generally if you think that would be helpful. Alternatively, we would be happy to come and make a presentation at one of your regular meetings.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NatureScot | [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[nature.scot](https://www.nature.scot) - Scotland's Nature Agency | Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba- [@nature_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot)

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 February 2025 16:24
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Subject: RE: Further to RE: National Park - SOSE meeting - MS Teams?

Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email below re rescheduling – completely understand.

I think we can make the 27 February work in person, 1.30 – 2.15, yes.

Please could you update the meeting invitation and we will shoog the diaries around at this end to accommodate travel etc?

Thank you.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@sose.scot



www.southofscotlandenterprise.com

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot [REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 03 February 2025 15:18
To: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Further to RE: National Park - SOSE meeting - MS Teams?

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Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Apologies for the short notice, but due to Parliamentary Business and diary pressures there is need to amend the meeting scheduled for 4th Feb.

The [REDACTED] is still keen to meet, ideally in person if possible, can suggest an extended time of:

Thursday 27th February 13:30 – 14:15

Again, apologies for the short notice and please note, that although it is post 14th Feb, the meeting will still be of great value

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ministerial Private Office | The Scottish Government

[REDACTED] [@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

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From: [REDACTED] [@sose.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sose.scot)>

Sent: 30 January 2025 15:46

To: [REDACTED] [@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>

Cc: [REDACTED] [@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] [@sose.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sose.scot)>

Subject: RE: Further to RE: National Park - SOSE meeting - MS Teams?

[REDACTED]

Received. Thank you very much!

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED] [@sose.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sose.scot)



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SCOTLAND'S
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CAPITAL
INNOVATION
ZONE
SOUTH OF SCOTLAND

<https://carbonliteracy.com/>

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From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 30 January 2025 15:41
To: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Further to RE: National Park - SOSE meeting - MS Teams?

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Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for confirming so quickly.

Have sent out a diary invitation with MS Teams Link.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Ministerial Private Office | The Scottish Government

[REDACTED]@gov.scot



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From: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Sent: 30 January 2025 11:39
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Subject: RE: Further to RE: National Park - SOSE meeting - MS Teams?

Good morning [REDACTED]

I have made arrangements for [REDACTED] to take the call at our Ettrick Riverside office in Selkirk so there is no need to include my personal email in the invitation – but many thanks – just to:

[REDACTED]@sose.scot, [REDACTED]@sose.scot and [REDACTED]@sose.scot and [REDACTED]@gmail.com

We look forward to receiving the MS Teams invitation.

With many thanks
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@sose.scot



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 January 2025 21:09
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@sose.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Further to RE: National Park - SOSE meeting - MS Teams?

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you so much this would be great. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] very much look forward to the call.

Can I ask that you send the invite to: [REDACTED]@sose.scot, [REDACTED]@sose.scot and [REDACTED]@sose.scot and as I will need to make arrangements for [REDACTED] to join and he is out of the office on various meetings that day I would be really grateful if you could also send the invite to [REDACTED]@gmail.com and copy me in as optional [REDACTED]@sose.scot as he may need to use my lap top.

With many thanks and we look forward to receiving the calendar invite for Tuesday at 1pm.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@sose.scot



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From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 29 January 2025 17:35
To: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Further to RE: National Park - SOSE meeting - MS Teams?

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Hi [REDACTED]

Hope you're well and apologies for the delay in response.

The diary has been under a lot of pressure recently.

Can suggest:

Tuesday 4th Feb: 13:00 – 13:30 via MS Teams

Please let know if you foresee any issues.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Ministerial Private Office | The Scottish Government

[REDACTED]@gov.scot



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From: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Sent: 29 January 2025 09:45
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Further to RE: National Park - SOSE meeting - MS Teams?

Good morning,

I copy in the mailbox in case [REDACTED] is on leave as I am hopeful for a Teams meeting to be arranged for next week if possible.

With many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Telephone: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@sose.scot



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From: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Sent: 28 January 2025 12:12
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Subject: FW: Further to RE: National Park - SOSE meeting - MS Teams?

Good morning [REDACTED]

I wonder if you have managed to progress with arranging a Teams call next week beginning 03 February?
For your information [REDACTED] received a response today from [REDACTED] to the letter he had written and in the response Ms Gougeon says she would be happy to arrange a meeting to discuss the National Park.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Telephone: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@sose.scot



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From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot [REDACTED]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 21 January 2025 17:24
To: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>; [REDACTED]@sose.scot>;

[redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@sose.scot>; [redacted]
[redacted]@sose.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Further to RE: National Park - SOSE meeting - MS Teams?

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Hi [redacted]

Hope you are well.

Thank you for this and apologies for the delay in response.

I'll take a look across diaries and offer some dates.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Ministerial Private Office | The Scottish Government

[redacted]@gov.scot



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From: [redacted]@sose.scot>

Sent: 21 January 2025 17:15

To: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]@sose.scot>; [redacted]@sose.scot>;

[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@sose.scot>; [redacted]

[redacted]@sose.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: Further to RE: National Park - SOSE meeting - MS Teams?

Good afternoon,

Further to my email below – I know diaries are very busy so an MS Teams meeting would also suffice during the week of 03 February. [redacted] would also be attending alongside [redacted]

I attach our latest correspondence to the [redacted] on the National Park.

Best wishes

[redacted]

[redacted]

Telephone: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@sose.scot



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 January 2025 16:00
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@sose.scot; [REDACTED]@sose.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@sose.scot; [REDACTED]@sose.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: National Park - SOSE meeting

Good afternoon,

I follow up on a previous request for an in person meeting between the [REDACTED] to further discuss the National Park.
The in person meeting was agreed on 30 July when [REDACTED] met [REDACTED] for an initial discussion about Galloway as the proposed National Park, and the [REDACTED] asked for a follow-up in person meeting.
Colleagues in the Nature Division ([REDACTED] team) were going to take forward arrangements for this and I understand [REDACTED] from their team had been in touch but we have had no news re a date. (Although I had an update to say that on 24 September [REDACTED] office was having a session on her diary and it was hoped that a date would be arranged then.)

We would welcome an in person meeting and it is key that this is before the National Park consultation closes on 14 February.

It would be ideal if the meeting could be arranged for the first week in February.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With many thanks and kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@sose.scot

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: catch up and NatureScot Board meeting
Date: 11 February 2025 10:30:37
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for this and also the discussion last week – all very helpful.

As discussed, the board familiarisation visit to Galloway is being planned for 11th-12th March. Day one will consist of an afternoon site visit with the board split into 3 groups (one travelling from Ayr taking in the western part of the proposed area; and 2 from Dumfries taking in the eastern and coastal parts of the proposed area respectively before all meeting up at Newton Stewart). As part of these visits, we thought it would be really useful for the Board to meet a range of stakeholders to gain different perspectives on Galloway and what they see are the issues and opportunities ahead for them. We thought [REDACTED] would be good from both a dairy and SOSE perspective, but we would welcome other suggestions say from the tourism sector.

On the afternoon of Day 2, we will also holding a board reception to provide an opportunity for further discussion with selected stakeholders on the National Park proposal – further details tbc but we would be grateful if you confirm who from SOSE we would want invite to this. In the evening, we would like to invite you and your Chair to a meal for more informal discussion with the Board. We will also be inviting the three local authorities to this too and we wonder if this provides the best opportunity for discussing “alternatives”.

If you could let us know who we should send the various invites to, and also any other suggestions you may have for this visit, that would be great.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | NatureScot | NàdarAlba |
Pronouns: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Sent: 07 February 2025 11:13

To: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@nature.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Subject: catch up and NatureScot Board meeting

Both

Many thanks for your time yesterday and the constructive challenge you were able to bring. It was really helpful as we think about how we explain our proposition.

[REDACTED] will, I am sure, come back with suggestions for key people to engage with during the Board meeting.

As mentioned, we caught up with our chair yesterday – [REDACTED] would very much welcome a slot with him and a couple of SOSE board members as part of the NatureScot Board programme to allow a proper exploration of our proposition. We did not talk around the detail of dates or timings but I just wanted to share for your planning purposes. A quick look at [REDACTED] diary suggests that there is currently space to fit a meeting in.

Many thanks.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@sose.scot



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[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@visitscotland.com>
Sent: 13 February 2025 12:07
To: [Redacted]@sose.scot>
Subject: RE: NP discussion - regular meeting

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Hi [Redacted],
I'm may be slightly late to the call today. I'm at the SSDA Board at your Dumfries Office that may run on.....
Thanks
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

VisitScotland
M: [Redacted]



-----Original Appointment-----

From: [Redacted]@sose.scot>
Sent: 23 January 2025 15:59
To: [Redacted];
[Redacted]@hutton.ac.uk; [Redacted]@dumgal.gov.uk;
[Redacted]@dumgal.gov.uk; [Redacted]@dumgal.gov.uk
Subject: NP discussion - regular meeting
When: 13 February 2025 15:30-16:30 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.
Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

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Hi all

Adding the new meting link until the 12th Dec

[Redacted]

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 371 897 962 66

Passcode: XybDbw

Dial in by phone

[+44 141 468 4951,411918234#](#) United Kingdom, Glasgow

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 411 918 234#

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

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Before you print think about the ENVIRONMENT

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot"
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot"; [REDACTED]@gov.scot"
Subject: 27 Feb 1330hrs in person meeting re National Park - SOSE
Date: 20 February 2025 08:47:00
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png

Good morning [REDACTED],

With reference to the meeting planned for next week 27 February at 1330hrs for [REDACTED] to meet with [REDACTED] – for information [REDACTED] [REDACTED] will now be attending this meeting alongside [REDACTED]. (Just in case you need to know for the reception/sign in on entry to Scottish Parliament.)

With kind regards,

[REDACTED]

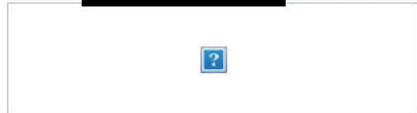
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@sose.scot



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From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot On Behalf Of [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 21 January 2025 17:24

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Further to RE: National Park - SOSE meeting - MS Teams?

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Hi [REDACTED]

Hope you are well.

Thank you for this and apologies for the delay in response.

I'll take a look across diaries and offer some dates.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ministerial Private Office | The Scottish Government

[REDACTED]@gov.scot



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www.lobbying.scot.

From: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>

Sent: 21 January 2025 17:15

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>; [REDACTED]@sose.scot>;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@sose.scot>

[REDACTED]@sose.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: Further to RE: National Park - SOSE meeting - MS Teams?

Good afternoon,

Further to my email below – I know diaries are very busy so an MS Teams meeting would also suffice during the week of 03 February. [REDACTED] would also be attending alongside [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

I attach our latest correspondence to the [REDACTED] on the National Park.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

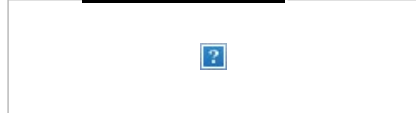
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@sose.scot



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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 21 January 2025 16:00

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: [REDACTED]@sose.scot; [REDACTED]@sose.scot;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@sose.scot; [REDACTED]@sose.scot;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: National Park - SOSE meeting

Good afternoon,

I follow up on a previous request for an in person meeting between the [REDACTED] (Chair, SOSE) and [REDACTED] (Chief Executive, SOSE) to further discuss the National Park.

The in person meeting was agreed on 30 July when [REDACTED] met [REDACTED] for an initial discussion about Galloway as the proposed National Park, and the [REDACTED] asked for a follow-up in person meeting.

Colleagues in the Nature Division ([REDACTED] team) were going to take forward arrangements for this and I understand [REDACTED] from their team had been in touch but we have had no news re a date.

(Although I had an update to say that on 24 September [REDACTED] office was having a session on her diary and it was hoped that a date would be arranged then.)

We would welcome an in person meeting and it is key that this is before the National Park consultation closes on 14 February.

It would be ideal if the meeting could be arranged for the first week in February.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With many thanks and kind regards,

[REDACTED]

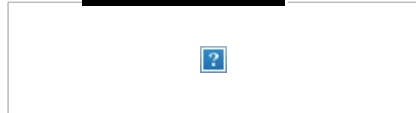
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@sose.scot



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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@nature.scot>
Sent: 24 February 2025 17:05
To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@sose.scot>
Cc: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@sose.scot>
Subject: National Park proposal for Galloway – invitation to evening meal

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Dear [Redacted]

In advance of NatureScot considering our advice to Ministers on the National Park proposal for southwest Scotland, the NatureScot Board is undertaking a familiarisation visit to the area on 11th and 12th March.

As part of that visit, we would like to invite you and a senior colleague to an informal dinner we are holding with senior leaders from the three local authorities on the 12th March from 19:30 at the Creebridge House Hotel in Newton Stewart.

We would be grateful if you could confirm attendance at this event as well as any dietary (or other) requirements with [Redacted] <[Redacted]@nature.scot>, who is helping with these arrangements. A response by **Monday 3rd March** would be most appreciated.

You will receive a separate email invitation to an afternoon stakeholder reception.

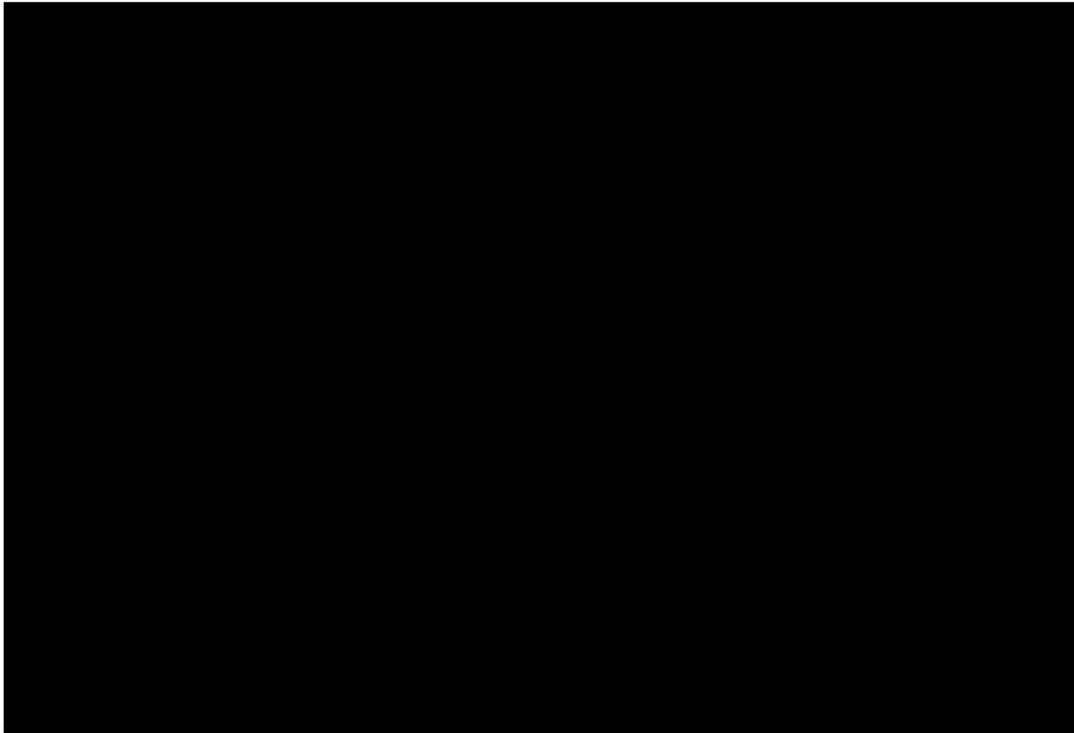
The Board and I look forward to meeting you and to discussing the issues and opportunities raised by the National Park proposal over dinner.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

NatureScot | [Redacted] | [Redacted]
[nature.scot](https://www.nature.scot) | [\[Redacted\]@nature.scot](mailto:[Redacted]@nature.scot) | Scotland's Nature Agency | Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba



From: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>
Sent: 24 February 2025 17:10
To: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Subject: National Park proposal for Galloway – invitation to stakeholder reception

You don't often get email from chair@nature.scot. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear [REDACTED]

In advance of NatureScot considering our advice to Ministers on the National Park proposal for southwest Scotland, the NatureScot Board is undertaking a familiarisation visit to the area on 11th and 12th March.

As part of that visit, we would like to invite you or a senior staff representative to a stakeholder reception on 12th March at the [Glentool Hive](#) from 15:30-17:30. The reception will provide an informal opportunity for the Board to meet and talk to many of the stakeholders we have engaged with during our reporter work. Tea and coffee will be available from 15:30 and the conversations will start with a short welcome from myself, as

NatureScot Chair.

As this event is invite only, we would be grateful if you could confirm who will be attending (name and contact email) with [REDACTED] [@nature.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@nature.scot)), who is helping to pull these arrangements together. Responses by **Monday 3rd March** would be most appreciated.

The Board and I look forward to meeting you and to discussing the issues and opportunities raised by the National Park proposal in more detail.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NatureScot | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]
nature.scot | [@nature.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@nature.scot) | Scotland's Nature Agency | Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

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Tha am post-dealain seo agus fiosrachadh sam bith na chois dìomhair agus airson an neach no buidheann ainmichte a-mhàin. Mas e gun d' fhuair sibh am post-dealain seo le mearachd, cuiribh fios dhan manaidsear-siostaim no neach-sgrìobhaidh.

Thoiribh an aire airson adhbharan gnothaich, 's dòcha gun tèid sùil a chumail air puist-dealain a' tighinn a-steach agus a' dol a-mach bho NàdarAlba.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>

Sent: 26 February 2025 20:42

To: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>

Subject: independent review of consultation process on new National Park proposal - invitation to participate

Caution: This email originated outside of the organisation. **Think** before you click on any links or open any attachments. Is it safe to do so? **Always** carry out appropriate checks or use the Report Message button if suspicious.

Dear all,

As part of our role as Reporter for Scottish Government's proposal for a new National Park in Galloway, we said we would have an independent review done of the Reporter phase consultation. The review is about the consultation process rather than the proposal for a National Park.

We have commissioned the Scottish Community Development Centre to do this, and would welcome your contribution. The attached invitation to an interview provides more details, but please let me know if you have any queries in the meantime.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NatureScot | [REDACTED]
nature.scot | [@nature_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot) | Scotland's Nature Agency | Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

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Thoiribh an aire airson adhbharan gnothaich, 's dòcha gun tèid stùil a chumail air puist-dealain a' tighinn a-steach agus a' dol a-mach bhon NàdarAlba.

Engagement and Consultation Review - Galloway National Park Proposal



Who we are

[Scottish Community Development Centre](#) have been commissioned by NatureScot to provide an independent review of the design and delivery of engagement and consultation in relation to the proposal to create a National Park. This will be published together with the results of the consultation itself alongside NatureScot's advice to Scottish ministers in spring 2025.

SCDC are the lead agency for [community development policy and practice support](#) in Scotland. We produced the [National Standards for Community Engagement](#) in partnership with Government, public agencies and communities. These are good-practice principles which are widely adopted by public agencies and increasingly referenced in key pieces of legislation, such as the Guidance for the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

What we will do

NatureScot asked SCDC to review the work of the Reporter using the National Standards for Community Engagement to determine whether participants feel it been effective. Specially we are seeking views on whether:

- The process was in line with the legislative intent of the role of the Reporter and best practice in terms of community consultation in Scotland.
- Participants felt it was possible to make their views known in appropriate ways.
- Anything has been learnt in carrying out the consultation which may improve subsequent community engagement, should the proposal proceed to the next stage

How we will we gather evidence

The timescale for completing the review are from March to early April . Our emphasis is on the design and delivery of the work of the Reporter and not gathering additional views about the proposed park. We will do this in the following ways.

- A desk-based review of:
 - 1) the engagement and consultation phase of the reporter plan, including the promotional materials used; the design and targeting of online tools and face to face consultative events; and
 - 2) the approach to the analysis of consultation results and look at submissions by participants about the process itself.

- A small number of online key informant interviews and small focus groups to build on the desk research. These will also explore:
 - The design and delivery of the consultation methods, what worked well and what could be strengthened in any future engagement.
 - The experience of those taking part - and the extent to which participants felt they were able to make their views clear.

How to get involved

We are contacting you because you have been identified as a participant or stakeholder in the engagement. If you wish to be considered for an online interview or to take part in a focus group please contact [REDACTED] [@scdc.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@scdc.org.uk) or tel: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] by 10th March 25 and we can arrange to speak to you.

I look forward to hearing from you

[REDACTED]



[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@nature.scot>
Sent: 27 February 2025 13:54
To: [Redacted]@sose.scot>; [Redacted]@visitscotland.com; [Redacted]
[Redacted]@sose.scot>; [Redacted]@hutton.ac.uk;
[Redacted]@dumgal.gov.uk; [Redacted]@dumgal.gov.uk;
[Redacted]@dumgal.gov.uk; [Redacted]@sose.scot>; [Redacted]
[Redacted]@nature.scot>; [Redacted]@ssdalliance.com>
Subject: RE: NP regular meeting

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All

Not sure they is much to update on discuss today so suggesting we postpone this one?

Hope that's okay.

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | [NatureScot](#) | [NàdarAlba](#) |
[Redacted]

-----Original Appointment-----

From: [Redacted]@sose.scot>
Sent: 17 February 2025 17:39
To: [Redacted]@visitscotland.com; [Redacted];
[Redacted]@hutton.ac.uk; [Redacted]@dumgal.gov.uk;
[Redacted]@dumgal.gov.uk; [Redacted]@dumgal.gov.uk; [Redacted]
[Redacted]
Subject: NP regular meeting
When: 27 February 2025 15:30-16:30 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.
Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Hi all

I've added a new fortnightly catch up in the calendar.

I've added a recurrence until the 1st May, which might not be needed, but I'll adjust where necessary.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

[REDACTED]

Dial in by phone

[REDACTED]

United Kingdom, Glasgow

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 662 494 57#

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: National Park proposal for Galloway – invitation to evening meal
Date: 05 March 2025 22:33:00
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Would welcome your views – I suspect that [REDACTED] might bring more detailed insight than me to complement you – but I am genuinely happy either way – what do you think.

Many thanks.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@sose.scot



From: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>
Sent: 05 March 2025 16:45
To: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>; [REDACTED]@sose.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Subject: RE: National Park proposal for Galloway – invitation to evening meal

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Good afternoon, all

Firstly, thank you for agreeing to attend this event to represent South of Scotland Enterprise.

Having reviewed the attendees we feel that if SOSE were to have three representatives there, it would create an imbalance with the other local councils, so on this occasion we would prefer if it was just [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who attended. I hope this does not cause a problem for [REDACTED]. We of course look forward to welcoming both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to the afternoon event.

The hotel has asked in order to accommodate our needs on the night that we send through in advance our orders for dinner. With that in mind, could I ask both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to complete the attached template using the attached menu with your choice of Starter, Main Course and

Dessert, along with any dietary requirements.

If you could please have this back to myself by COP tomorrow it would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NatureScot | [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@sose.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sose.scot)>

Sent: 28 February 2025 16:20

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@nature.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@nature.scot)>

Subject: RE: National Park proposal for Galloway – invitation to evening meal

Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you for getting back to me. Yes, of course it is okay to let me know next week.

Have a great weekend!

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@nature.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@nature.scot)>

Sent: 28 February 2025 16:09

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@sose.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sose.scot)>

Subject: RE: National Park proposal for Galloway – invitation to evening meal

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Hi [REDACTED]

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you on this one. We have only reserved space for 2 representatives. I am still waiting to hear from three local authorities, and we want to ensure fair representation from all four organisations.

Would it be ok if I confirm early next week the addition of [REDACTED] once we have heard from others.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>

Sent: 27 February 2025 13:12

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nature.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nature.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nature.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>

Subject: RE: National Park proposal for Galloway – invitation to evening meal

Hi [REDACTED],

I hope this email finds you well. It is a glorious day here in the Scottish Borders – good to see the sun.

I am working on diaries at the moment and I wonder how progress is in looking into the request that [REDACTED] also be invited to attend the dinner alongside [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]?

Apologies if you are still progressing and I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>



<https://carbonliteracy.com/>

www.southofscotlandenterprise.com

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 26 February 2025 12:13

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nature.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>; [REDACTED]@nature.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@sose.scot>

Subject: RE: National Park proposal for Galloway – invitation to evening meal

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your response and for clarifying that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are attending the dinner and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are attending the stakeholder event.

With many apologies for being forward, but please can we request that [REDACTED] also be invited to attend the dinner alongside [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]?

With best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@sose.scot



<https://carbonliteracy.com/>

www.southofscotlandenterprise.com

From: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>

Sent: 26 February 2025 11:31

To: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>; [REDACTED]@nature.scot>

Subject: RE: National Park proposal for Galloway – invitation to evening meal

You don't often get email from michelle.flynn@nature.scot. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for reaching out. [REDACTED] is already on our invite list to attend the Dinner on the evening of 12 March alongside [REDACTED]

<https://carbonliteracy.com/>

www.southofscotlandenterprise.com

From: [REDACTED]@nature.scot>

Sent: 24 February 2025 17:05

To: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@sose.scot>

Subject: National Park proposal for Galloway – invitation to evening meal

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Dear [REDACTED]

In advance of NatureScot considering our advice to Ministers on the National Park proposal for southwest Scotland, the NatureScot Board is undertaking a familiarisation visit to the area on 11th and 12th March.

As part of that visit, we would like to invite you and a senior colleague to an informal dinner we are holding with senior leaders from the three local authorities on the 12th March from 19:30 at the Creebridge House Hotel in Newton Stewart.

We would be grateful if you could confirm attendance at this event as well as any dietary (or other) requirements with [REDACTED]@nature.scot, who is helping with these arrangements. A response by **Monday 3rd March** would be most appreciated.

You will receive a separate email invitation to an afternoon stakeholder reception.

The Board and I look forward to meeting you and to discussing the issues and opportunities raised by the National Park proposal over dinner.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NatureScot | [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Appendix B

Jane Morrison-Ross
Chief Executive
Carmont House
The Crichton
Bankend Road
Dumfries
DG1 4TA

5 June 2024

Dear Jane

I met recently with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere to discuss a number of issues with the main focus being funding support.

As you will be aware, the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere (GSAB) was first designated in July 2012, and over the last 12 years has grown in both size and stature to the point where it now has a team of seventeen dedicated officers working across the region to support communities and businesses in their journey to net zero. Over the last few years funding from South of Scotland Enterprise (SoSE) has been a key catalyst in this development, helping to grow the core team and providing significant resource to raise awareness of the significance of the UNESCO designation in leading in delivery of a just transition to net zero. The success of this funding intervention can be seen by the raised profile that is leading to other organisations seeking to partner with the Biosphere in the development and delivery of strategic initiatives and to the interest shown both nationally and internationally by organisations who wish to learn from the best practice developed in the Biosphere.

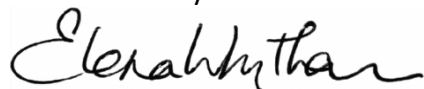
The contribution that GSAB is making and can in the future make to the region's wellbeing, is increasingly recognised and valued and is reflected in the ongoing, multi-annual commitment that, even in the current difficult times, the area's three local authorities have made to supporting it financially. Their contributions alone, however, will not be enough to sustain the organisation's core team at the scale required to maintain the momentum now achieved. Without continued funding from elsewhere, therefore, the great strides made over the past few years are at risk.

The GSAB Partnership Board has always appreciated the need over time to reduce its reliance on public funding and to use whatever such funding it receives to lever in resources from other sources. GSAB is making strenuous efforts to diversify its income in this way and has already succeeded in attracting significant levels of project funding. But all initiatives of this kind have a significant lead-in period before they yield results. That caveat applies even to the bid for National Park status for Galloway that GSAB has submitted jointly with the Galloway National Park Association, which in any case proposes not a complete replacement but a complementary, albeit closely integrated, designation.

I understand that their current SoSE funding agreement is due to end on 31st March 2025 but they have advised there has been no indication of follow-up support and they are understandably concerned about the precariousness of their future should there be no follow up support. I am sure you will appreciate that prolonged uncertainty about future support means a greater the risk that they will lose experienced staff, have difficulty in attracting others and miss out on opportunities to raise money and to play a key role in joint ventures. Moreover, if momentum were lost at such a crucial stage, it would be challenging to regain the trust and engagement of the communities, businesses and organisations which are currently firmly behind the Biosphere.

I hope you will agree that such an outcome would be a great blow not just to the Galloway component of SoSE's territory but to the whole of south west Scotland. I would be grateful for your thoughts and I am more than happy to meet discuss with you how best it might be avoided.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elena Whitham', written in a cursive style.

Elena Whitham MSP

South of Scotland Enterprise

Jane Morrison-Ross

E: jane.morrison-ross@sose.scot



Elena Whitham MSP
Constituency Office,
46 – 48 Glaisnock Street
Cumnock
KA18 1BY

By email: corporate.relations@sose.scot

19 June 2024

Dear Elena,

Thank you for your letter of 5 June about the future funding for Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere (GSAB).

We understand your concerns and those of the Board and team of the Biosphere in managing the uncertainty around future funding and how challenging this is for all concerned. We also recognise the value of the Biosphere to the region, demonstrated through the significant support we have provided over the last four years in terms of both financial and hands-on development support from across the South of Scotland Enterprise team which as you recognise has been instrumental in supporting the Biosphere in its development. When we entered into the five-year funding agreement with them, we made clear the importance of finding alternative funding sources and the team has worked hard with them to encourage them to look for these opportunities.

As you will be aware, the landscape around public sector funding is currently under significant pressure and in SOSE we are, in turn, subject to the impact of this pressure. As an economic development agency with a remit across the whole of the South of Scotland, we are having to make difficult decisions regarding our priorities and how best to use the resources that we have to maximise the impact they have for our region. Clearly, taking those decisions is an ongoing process and we are simply not in a position to confirm the outcome.

Where budgets might be affected with clients, partners, or stakeholders we are working in partnership with a shared understanding that this change affects us all, that it will require some adjustment to be made to the current plans, and that we must find new ways of moving forward together.

This is very much our aim with Ed and John and the team at GSAB and we will continue to support the organisation to adapt and develop given the current uncertainties and pressures around budget.

We know that will not be the news that the team wants, but it is a position we have shared with them and we are committed to continuing to working with them to explore the way forward.

Yours sincerely



Jane Morrison-Ross
Chief Executive
South of Scotland Enterprise

[REDACTED]
Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Partnership
Biosphere Office
57 Queen Street
Newton Stewart
G8 6JR

By e-mail [REDACTED]@sose.scot

19 June 2024

[REDACTED], thank you for your letter.

As you will already know from our previous conversations, I understand your concerns and those of the Board and team of the Biosphere in managing the uncertainty around future funding and how challenging this is for all concerned. Also bearing in mind that the situation is made slightly more difficult with the other development strand that is the decision-making process of the new National Park bid and its context within the recent changes within Scottish Government and the upcoming election.

Outside of the decision on the National Park, you will also be aware that the landscape around public sector finance in general is going through change and currently under significant pressure, and in SOSE we are in turn, subject to the impact of this pressure.

As an economic development agency with a remit across the whole of the South of Scotland, we are having to make difficult decisions regarding our priorities and how best to use our resources to maximise the impact they have for our region. Taking those decisions is an ongoing process and we are simply not in a position to confirm the outcome of how this might land this far ahead. I understand that this delay and uncertainty is far from ideal and that the situation is going to require patience all round to allow it to work through.

SOSE is working in partnership with clients, partners, and stakeholders where we know budgets might be affected, and we are doing this with a shared understanding that this change affects us all, that it will require some adjustment to be made to the current plans, and that we must find new ways of moving forward together. When we entered into the five-year funding agreement with Biosphere, we made clear at the time the importance of finding alternative funding sources and I know you have made some progress here.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will continue to support you, the Board, [REDACTED], and the rest of the team to seek these opportunities, bringing in other expertise when needed, to help you adapt and develop given the current uncertainties and pressures around the budget.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

South of Scotland Enterprise

Ms Gillian Martin MSP
Minister for Climate Action
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

By e-mail: MinisterCA@gov.scot

20 June 2024

Dear Minister,

Re: your letter to Enterprise Agencies (12 June 2024)

As Scotland's newest development agency, and the first to be set up by the devolved Government, South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) has a tripartite focus on economy, environment and community.

SOSE is committed to a Just Transition to Net Zero and a Nature Positive future, focusing on reducing our own emissions and use of resources as well as supporting businesses, social enterprises and communities across the South of Scotland to eliminate waste and pollution, regenerate nature and instigate sustainable resource management practises.

Since 2022, SOSE has been part of a landmark partnership with Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS), to translate and amplify knowledge and expertise into a South of Scotland context. Our commitment to mainstreaming the circular economy for our region was demonstrated by the appointment of a Circular Economy Advisor in 2023. This one-of-a-kind role has been tasked with proactively driving understanding and uptake of circular economy to realise the distinct opportunities of our mainly rural region.

As with all SOSE does, national and regional strategies act as a direction of travel, informed by the voices of those across the South of Scotland with whom we regularly engage – most recently through our Summer tour – on how to get there. As always, our priority is to ensure everyone is empowered to come on the journey with us. This participatory approach was the basis of our 2023 Insights Survey, where we encouraged businesses to share their understanding on circular economy, including through 1-2-1 interviews. The findings have gone on to form the pillars of our circular support offering, recognising the need for raising circular literacy and appetite through simplified language and accessible pathways, with a clear business case – particularly for our micro businesses, which make up the majority of our region. Given SOSE's ambition to inspire, raising literacy began within our own operations: with all of our client-facing teams having now undergone circular economy training for working with businesses, social enterprises and communities to holistically embed circular principles into conversations and activity.

At the heart of our support remains the availability of tailored assistance for everyone we work with. The circular economy team alone has directly interacted with over 50 businesses since its inception in 2023, delivering bespoke projects across key sectors including textiles, food & drink, and within the creative economy. One example of this is our funding of the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere which has led to the recent launch of Merrick Blackface Knitwear. This project applies circular economy principles to turn an undervalued natural resource into a high-quality product with multiple benefits for the Wellbeing Economy.

Our team of experts across circular economy, energy transition, natural capital and net zero continually collaborate to align ambitions as a team and region. This alignment is further supported through the formation of a Net Zero Business Group, which brings together key colleagues from across SOSE's Directorates to co-ordinate our support and advice to clients on their transition to becoming climate resilient, nature positive and net zero organisations. Outcomes of this group will ensure SOSE has a formalised framework of tools and resources to integrate circularity, natural capital management and net zero into all that we do, including how our goals are defined, and funds allocated.

As an organisation, we are committed to continually developing and evolving our carbon emission data reporting to ensure we can effectively produce a more accurate organisational carbon footprint (year-on-year) and to continue to identify areas to reduce our Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in the year ahead. Our data includes reporting on waste, utilities and business travel, as well as employee home working. Our Board and Senior Leadership Team have completed the Royal Scottish Geographical Society Climate Literacy Programme to inform strategic planning and decision making. We have further supported sustainable activity throughout the organisation through continued delivery of Carbon Literacy training as part of the SOSE induction programme, leading to the accreditation of becoming a Gold Carbon Literate Organisation (CLO), alongside electric vehicle and cycle2work salary sacrifice schemes.

As part of the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, we are heavily involved in several projects that are following circular economy principles including the Borderlands Energy Masterplan and the Natural Capital Programme, for which SOSE leads on the Data and Investment elements. These will enable us to develop a baseline for the quantities and quality of natural capital assets leading to informed decision making and responsible private investment in sustainable solutions to biodiversity loss and climate change.

As a public organisation, we recognise our capacity to influence change beyond our own operations to deliver local environmental and socio-economic benefits, whilst supporting a Just Transition to Net Zero and a nature positive future. We have established two funds to support business and community development, the Net Zero Accelerator Fund, now in its second year, and the new Natural Capital Innovation Fund. Our Procurement Strategy specifies how we will responsibly plan our sourcing activity to reduce emissions, contribute positively to climate change adaptation and embed sustainability at the heart of procurement. We have already seen benefits from this approach, including the use of re-purposed furniture in fitting out the recently opened Hawick Business Centre.

Following South of Scotland's recognition as the nation's Natural Capital Innovation Zone (NCIZ), SOSE remains dedicated to our Just Transition to Net Zero and nature positive future. As an organisation we are committing to a net zero target for our operational footprint by 2038. We will look to plan our operational transition to net zero in the coming year by exploring heat decarbonisation and renewable energy solutions across our estate as well as continuing to support our employees with smarter ways of working to further reduce emissions. As a regional influencing body, we continue to actively engage with regional and national partners to address biodiversity loss, support our businesses and communities to develop circular economy approaches and Community Wealth Building opportunities

and implement the Regional Land Use Partnerships and South of Scotland Sustainable Forest Management proposal to deliver sustainable resource management.

SOSE views this approach as fundamental to unlocking the power of the regional and rural economies, building the industries for the future and continuing our focus on people, prosperity and planet.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Morrison-Ross', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jane Morrison-Ross
Chief Executive
South of Scotland Enterprise

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot"; [REDACTED]@gov.scot"
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot"; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Future approach to funding Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere
Date: 25 October 2024 15:37:00
Attachments: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED],
Thank you – an updated diary invitation has been sent.
Many thanks for your speedy response.
Best wishes

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Telephone: [REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@sose.scot



<https://carbonliteracy.com/>
www.southofscotlandenterprise.com

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 25 October 2024 15:28
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Future approach to funding Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere

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Hi [REDACTED],
Thank you for letting me know and providing the dates below. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are able to attend the Tuesday 19 November slot, 13:00-14:00. I would be grateful if you could update the diary invite.

Many thanks,
[REDACTED] (she/her)
[REDACTED]

Scottish Government | Area 3HS | Victoria Quay | Leith | EH6 6QQ
Telephone: [REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2024 3:03 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>

Subject: RE: Future approach to funding Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email below and having spoken with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], we would be grateful to rearrange soonest. Please can you advise of dates/times that would suit [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and we will look at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] diaries and fit in with their availability. If you would like some dates that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are free please see below but please feel free to offer other dates/times and I can adjust their diaries should none of these suit.

Thursday 07 November 1-2pm

Friday 08 November 9-10am

Tuesday 19 November 1230-230pm

Thursday 21 November 12-2pm

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

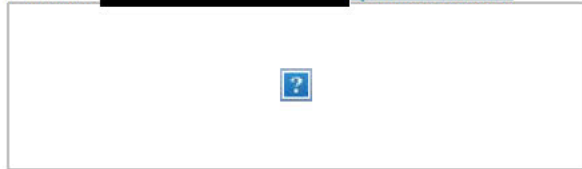
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@sose.scot



<https://carbonliteracy.com/>

www.southofscotlandenterprise.com

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 25 October 2024 12:38

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>

Subject: RE: Future approach to funding Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere

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Good afternoon,

[REDACTED] will be unable to make this slot as he is in London supporting a minister. Is there any scope to shift this to allow him to attend? If not, we will have to send a sub on [REDACTED] behalf.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED] (she/her)

[REDACTED], [REDACTED]

Scottish Government | Area 3HS | Victoria Quay | Leith | EH6 6QQ

Telephone: [REDACTED]



-----Original Appointment-----

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>

Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 9:30 AM

To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Future approach to funding Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere

When: 05 November 2024 15:00-16:00 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Thank you for your availability to meet to discuss the future approach to funding Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere.

The MS Teams link is below. Please get in touch if further assistance is required.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@sose.scot

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

[REDACTED]

Dial in by phone

[REDACTED]

United Kingdom, Glasgow

[Find a local number](#)

[REDACTED]

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

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No liability is accepted for viruses and it is your responsibility to scan any attachments.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot);
Cc: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot); [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot); [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot);
Subject: RE: GSAB - follow up to discussion on 19 November - funding
Date: 20 December 2024 10:49:00
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

[REDACTED]

I know that you and [REDACTED] had a helpful discussion earlier in December about GSAB and its activity and she and [REDACTED] are drawing together examples of GSAB involvement in nature restoration and plans for impactful future projects – [REDACTED] will share more detailed information about a specific project later today.

You will also be aware that our Board was having a discussion to help develop SOSE's response to the National Park consultation. We'd be very keen to share that thinking with you and talk through how that will inform SOSE's response and position. Could we do that early in the new year? We could pick up on that board discussion as well as issues around GSAB funding and strengthening awareness of what GSAB is doing.

I hope you manage a relaxing and enjoyable festive break.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@sose.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sose.scot)



From: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot) <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>
Sent: 05 December 2024 09:18
To: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@sose.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sose.scot); [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@sose.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sose.scot)>
Cc: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@sose.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sose.scot); [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@sose.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sose.scot)>;
[REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot); [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot); [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot);
[REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)
Subject: RE: GSAB - follow up to discussion on 19 November - funding

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Hi [REDACTED]

That would be helpful thanks. I'm available between 12-3pm today if that works for you?

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Sent: 05 December 2024 08:30
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>;
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: GSAB - follow up to discussion on 19 November - funding

Hi [REDACTED]

I'd be happy to pick up a chat with you today/tomorrow if helpful and give some insight as to progress there?

I can pick up with you separately and organise a time that suits.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 04 December 2024 17:33
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>;
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sose.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>;
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: GSAB - follow up to discussion on 19 November - funding

Caution: This email originated outside of the organisation. **Think** before you click on any links or open any attachments. Is it safe to do so? **Always** carry out appropriate checks or use the Report Message button if suspicious.

Hi [REDACTED]

Good to hear from you – thanks for following up. I don't have an update for you yet I'm afraid, it's still with us.

One thing that would be very helpful to know is what, if any, expectations were set by

SOSE when the 5 year funding agreement was made regarding the end of that period and the extent to which the biosphere has been able to draw in funding from other sources that will help to sustain it going forward.

Let me know if a chat is easier.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@sose.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sose.scot)>

Sent: 04 December 2024 09:56

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@sose.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sose.scot)>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@sose.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sose.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@sose.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sose.scot)>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>

Subject: GSAB - follow up to discussion on 19 November - funding

Hi [REDACTED]

Hope all is good - and conscious that you will be in the midst of budget confirmation discussions.

Given those discussions, it would be great to hear if there was any update on the meeting we had on 19 November about the future funding for GSAB and the outcome of your approach to the DFM and Cabinet Secretaries.

Look forward to hearing more.

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

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