

PE1678/FF

Scottish Natural Heritage submission of 19 September 2019

1) Progress Towards Implementing Rangers in Scotland

We are working on a refresh of the national statement [Rangers in Scotland](#) and an early outline of this has been circulated to Ranger Development Partnership (RDP) members for initial comments.

Future meetings of the RDP and the Ranger Managers Forum (RMF) are being scheduled as part of this process with plans for a new statement to be signed off, by the partners to the existing statement, in early 2020. COSLA are supporting this work, and in June 2019 we presented a well-received paper to their Economy and Environment Board.

We are developing early thinking with SCRA on a new training programme to promote rangering skills. We also continue to work with SCRA on specific topics such as the annual Sharing Good Practice Leading Edge event, the promotion of Junior Rangers and the clarification of the Terms of Reference for the Ranger Development Partnership, the Ranger Managers' Forum and the Ranger Rendezvous.

We are liaising with Scottish Government on the scope to include information about rangers in their proposed monitoring of outdoor access matters across local authorities

We have also worked with Scottish Government on refreshing the allocation formula for the previous SNH funding that was transferred to local authorities, requesting that is renamed as an allocation for "biodiversity and ranger services" to increase profile to rangers within this allocation.

We have included a question on public recognition of the national ranger logo in the Scottish Nature Omnibus public survey we commission each year.

2) SNH grant support to ranger services

In 2018/19 SNH provided £208k of grant aid to 15 ranger services, which equates to support for just over 18 full-time equivalent (FTE). These can be broadly categorised into community based ranger services and private estate ranger services. Annex 1 provides an overview.

Our current funding arrangement with these ranger services runs until the end of September 2019, and we are pleased to say that new funding offers are currently being issued to offer another 2 years of grant support.

This continuing grant support to these services for the next two years reflects the value that we place on the work that they carry out. Nevertheless, we are having to make budgetary savings and from 2020 we are changing to grant aiding a maximum of 1 FTE per ranger service. Many of the services we fund are unaffected by this change. We are aware that Mull and Iona Ranger Service are particularly concerned

about the reduction in funding to them and we are currently reviewing how we can best respond to the specific issues they have raised. Two private estates are also proposing to make changes because of reduction in our funding. Buccleuch Estate have indicated that they will not continue to accept SNH funding, for their Ranger Services at Bowhill and Drumlanrig, and they will reduce the time that their rangers spend on delivering ranger objectives. Penicuik Ranger Service has advised us that they will no longer employ seasonal rangers and reducing their work outputs accordingly.

Looking ahead, it is possible that we may not be able to afford to continue to grant aid the remaining ranger services beyond this new two year period. We expect to make decisions on this during 2020/21 as we review the implications of the new spending review. Ranger services will still be able to apply to SNH project funds, including the 2nd phase of Biodiversity Challenge Funding recently announced in the Programme for Government.

Annex 1 Ranger Services Supported by SNH Grant Support at August 2019

| Community Ranger Service | Grant support from SNH FY 18/19 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Foula | 8.5k for 0.75 FTE |
| Fair Isle | 6k pa for 1 FTE |
| Sanday | 6k pa for 0.5 TE |
| Rum | 6k pa for 0.5 FTE |
| Tiree | 12k for 1 FTE |
| Mull and Iona | 24k for 2 FTE |
| North Harris | 12k pa for 1 FTE |
| Knoydart | 12k pa for 1 FTE |
| Private Ranger Service | Grant support from SNH FY 18/19 |
| Finlaystone | 24k pa for 2 FTE |
| Hopetoun House | 12k pa for 1.5 FTE |
| Buccleuch Bowhill | 18k pa for 1.5 FTE |
| Buccleuch Drumlanrig | 24k pa for 2 FTE |
| Kelburn | 24k pa for 2 FTE |
| Hoddum & Kinmount | 12k pa for 1 FTE |
| Penicuik HPT | 18k pa for 1.5 FTE |