

## **PE1678/JJ**

Scottish Natural Heritage submission of 21 January 2020

This submission provides a brief update on progress with the statement on rangering in Scotland as requested by the Committee.

Since the round-table discussion hosted by the Committee on 26 September 2019, we have taken forward the development of this statement in conjunction with key partners.

- An early draft was circulated to members of the Ranger Development Partnership for initial comments, and a revised version was discussed at a meeting of the Partnership in November. This was subsequently revised and recirculated for further input.
- The draft will be considered at a meeting of the Ranger Managers' Forum on 27 January which will be hosted by COSLA and SNH, providing an opportunity for discussion with around 55 attendees from different employing bodies. The draft will also be discussed by the SNH Board on 29 January.
- We will then circulate the draft, with further amendments as needed, for input from a wider range of partners representing the full range of interests that benefit from the work of rangers and allied countryside staff.

The draft is progressing well and reflects the points discussed at the last Committee meeting, strongly promoting the benefits that rangers provide. The statement also takes an inclusive approach that reflects the full diversity of rangers and allied staff across different local authorities and other public, private and third sector organisations.

We are aiming to conclude this process for publication in May 2020.

Alongside these developments we continue to work positively with SCRA and other members of the Ranger Development Partnership on a new training and development programme and the development of junior ranger schemes. We held a successful Leading Edge event for rangers on the topic of mental health, in conjunction with SCRA, at Battleby on 4 December. Looking further ahead, we are liaising with SCRA over plans for a Ranger Rendezvous event in November of this year.