

PE1678/KK

Petitioner submission of 13 February 2020

SCRA response to SNH submission of 21 January 2020

SCRA welcomes the refreshed partnership with SNH that has resulted in significant engagement with wide cross section of Countryside Rangers at the Leading Edge event, 4 December and at the Ranger Managers Forum, 27 January.

These successful meetings highlighted the continuing benefits of a national network and a national identity amongst those attending.

SCRA considers these benefits should merit a due priority within the new Rangers in Scotland document.

SNH are keen to adopt an inclusive approach that reflects the full diversity of Rangers and allied staff across different employers.

SCRA expresses reservations that including staff such as Access Officers and Biodiversity officers will dilute the Ranger identity and distort the national picture when identifying Ranger's contribution to national priorities.

For example, Access Officers have their own national association (SOAN) and work almost exclusively under the Land Reform Act (2005) legislation whereas that is only a component of a Rangers job.

In the Round Table meeting of 26th September verbal agreement was made to develop a Memorandum of Understanding between SNH and SCRA.

SCRA would hope to see that agreement recognised within a future update on progress when SNH next reports to the Committee.