



Press Release

24 June 2020

For immediate release

## **Hillwalkers look forward to return**

### **Walkers and climbers welcome lifting of travel limits**

**Hillwalkers and climbers across Scotland have been delighted at news that the 'stay local' travel restriction for leisure and recreation is to be lifted from 3<sup>rd</sup> July.**

Mountaineering Scotland has welcomed the lifting of the restriction, announced by the First Minister today.

Stuart Younie, Chief Executive Officer of the organisation which represents almost 15,000 walkers and climbers, and acts as a voice for the sector in Scotland, said: "Today's announcement, and the plans to bring forward a relaxation in travel for leisure is a positive step and one that will be welcomed by our members and outdoor enthusiasts across Scotland.

"We hope that more people will now be able to enjoy a return to the hills and mountains but continue to play their part and stay safe as they have done over the last few months."

The organisation has reminded people that this is not yet a return to normal, and that distancing and hygiene guidelines must still be observed.

"We all need to remain COVID aware. Think where you are going and consider avoiding places you know are likely to be busy and be sensitive to the concerns of rural communities. The sacrifices we have all been making have helped us get this far in a return to the hills, but the virus is still out there so we would encourage anyone heading to the hills to do so with this in mind and to act responsibly."

Mountaineering Scotland will be looking in more detail at the First Minister's statement and updating the guidance for hill walkers and climbers on their website, with a reminder that the lifting of the limit will not take effect until 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

Mountaineering Scotland's guidance for hill-walkers and climbers can be found at [www.mountaineering.scot/coronavirus/](http://www.mountaineering.scot/coronavirus/)

**Ends**

## **Notes for editors:**

### **Further information contact:**

Neil Reid, Communications Officer, on 01738 493941 or 07444545293 or [neil@mountaineering.scot](mailto:neil@mountaineering.scot)

### **About Mountaineering Scotland:**

- Mountaineering Scotland is the national representative organisation for hill walkers, climbers and ski-tourers in Scotland.
- Mountaineering Scotland provides training and information to mountain users to promote safety, self-reliance and the enjoyment of our mountain environment.
- The Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with over 14,500 members and is funded through a combination of membership subscriptions, non-governmental grants and investment from sportscotland, which supports public initiatives and services in mountain safety, mountain training and the development and promotion of mountaineering activities.
- Mountaineering Scotland also acts for 75,000 members of the BMC or British Mountaineering Council on matters related to Landscape and Access in Scotland.
- Mountaineering Scotland landscape and access work is supported financially by the Scottish Mountaineering Trust and the BMC
- Mountaineering Scotland also runs the ClimbScotland initiative to encourage young people to participate in climbing and support their progression.
- Mountaineering Scotland is the national governing body for sport climbing. It offers pathways to climbing coaching, organises and promotes a range of regional and national climbing competitions, and manages the Scottish climbing and bouldering teams. It contributes to the management of the GB teams with the ultimate aim of seeing a Scottish athlete achieve a podium position in the Olympic Games.
- The MCoFS is a not for profit company limited by guarantee and incorporated in Scotland. Company number SC322717.
- Mountaineering Scotland, The Granary, West Mill Street, Perth PH1 5QP
- Website: [www.mountaineering.scot](http://www.mountaineering.scot)