



The Mountaineering Council of Scotland

The Old Granary
West Mill Street
Perth PH1 5QP
Tel: 01738 493 942

Please reply by email to david@mcofs.org.uk

Bruce Taylor
Regional Development Manager
Scottish Woodlands
Pefferrey House
Strathpeffer
IV14 9HA

(by email to bruce.taylor@scottishwoodlands.co.uk)

1 March 2016

Dear Mr Taylor

Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations 1999: Ledgowan - Case ref 030902000

Thank you for your letter of 26 February. We are unable to attend the meeting on 15 March and instead offer the following comments.

1. The proposed planting scheme is an improvement on the original proposal. The species mix and upper planting limit appear more appropriate. We continue to have reservations regarding provision for public access.
2. The planting map is misleading. It does not show the existing area of forestry that fills the eastern part of the area between compartments 1 and 2. It is stated in your letter that the western part of this gap is being considered for planting. The potential is that the entire slope above the A890 would be forest with a significant proportion of commercial / close planting, blocking any access except by the most determined access-taker. Given the size of the scheme (830 Ha of new planting, plus up to 54 Ha east of compt 1), and experience of such 'blocking' forestry elsewhere we would suggest that an open corridor should be maintained between the A890 and the open upper slopes. This should be appropriately fitted to the landscape and wide enough not to be blocked by windthrow.
3. A single perimeter deer fence is understandable. It should include appropriate provision for public access, including (1) between An Liathanach 508m summit and Carn Beag and (2) from the A890 to an open corridor (see above), as well as where vehicle tracks cross it.
4. The MCOFS would like to see the issue of provision for responsible public access addressed explicitly either through an EIA or as part of the FCS approval process.

I trust that you will find these comments helpful.

Yours sincerely

David Gibson
Chief Executive Officer