



Press Release

15 September 2016

For immediate release

## **Mountaineers welcome funding for MWIS**

### **Talks back on track for “sustainable and enhanced service”**

Mountaineering Scotland, the body which represents hill walkers, climbers and mountaineers in Scotland has welcomed the news that the future of a crucial mountain weather forecasting service has been secured.

It was confirmed last night that the Mountain Weather Information Service (MWIS), which has been funded by sportscotland since 2007, will receive funding at present levels for a further three years. MWIS Lead Forecaster Geoff Monk had previously warned that he had been told funding was to cease at the end of this year.

Mountaineering Scotland’s Chief Executive Officer, David Gibson, said he was delighted at the news.

He said: “This is a vital and much valued service for everyone who resorts to Scotland’s mountains,

“We had spoken over the weekend to both Geoff and sportscotland to encourage them to sit down around the table again, and we met with the Scottish Government this week to provide evidence of the value of the MWIS forecasts and to express our concern that a satisfactory solution should be found which safeguards the forecast.

“We welcome the intervention of the Minister, Aileen Campbell, which provided the impetus for a solution to be found and it’s good news that a three year period of funding has been secured. We now look forward to being involved in the ongoing discussions which will ensure a sustainable, long-term and enhanced service.

**Ends**

#### **Further information**

Neil Reid, Communications Officer, on 01738 493941 or 07788871803 or [neil@mcofs.org.uk](mailto:neil@mcofs.org.uk)

#### **About Mountaineering Scotland**

- Mountaineering Scotland is the new name for the Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCoS), which acts to represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering.
- Mountaineering Council of Scotland remains the registered company name.

- Mountaineering Scotland is the only recognised representative organisation for hill walkers, climbers and ski-tourers who live in Scotland or who enjoy Scotland's mountains.
- Mountaineering Scotland provides training and information to mountain users to promote safety, self-reliance and the enjoyment of our mountain environment.
- Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with over 13,000 members representing hill walkers, climbers and mountaineers.
- The MCoS 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