



**Press Release**

**2 July 2020**

**For immediate release**

## **Return to the mountains**

### **Walkers and climbers welcome lifting of 5-mile travel limit**

Mountaineering Scotland has welcomed the lifting of the five-mile travel limit for recreation, which will mean the majority of regular hill walkers and climbers will be able to return to the Scottish hills for the first time since lockdown started.

Although the weather forecast predicts rain for the weekend, climbers and walkers from all over Scotland are expected to take advantage of the relaxation.

Stuart Younie, CEO of Mountaineering Scotland, said: “The lifting of the travel restriction is great news for Mountaineering Scotland members and hill walkers and climbers across Scotland, most of whom have been unable to access the hills and mountains during the last three months.

“We urge anyone heading to the hills to plan ahead, and to enjoy their activities safely and responsibly whilst continuing to protect themselves and the communities they may be visiting.

“Remember to stay ‘COVID aware’ – the virus is still out there and we cannot yet return to normal, so we should all be aware of physical distancing and hand hygiene, and be sensible in our ambitions for the moment.”

From Friday July 3, people – with the exception of those in Dumfries and Galloway – will be able to travel any distance for leisure and recreation, and will be able to stay overnight in self-catering accommodation or caravans where there are no shared facilities. However to help manage visitor numbers over the next couple of weeks the Scottish Government is asking those who want to camp in tents in the wild to wait until the 15<sup>th</sup> of July.

**Ends**

**Notes for editors:**

**Further information contact:**

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**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)