

By email to: parking@highland.gov.uk

Parking Services
The Highland Council
Inverness

29 August 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

**The Highland Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places)
(Decriminalised Parking Enforcement and Consolidation) Variation Seven Glenmore Order 2023**


1. Mountaineering Scotland **objects** to the proposed Glenmore Road TRO restriction, specifically the section of road at the entrance to the Coire Cas car park (Maps NV6823, NV683, NV684 and NV685). This proposal fails to demonstrate that it is part of an effective strategy to manage car parking associated with active tourism in Glenmore, Northern Corries and the wider mountain beyond.
2. Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with more than 16,000 members and is the recognised representative organisation for hill walkers, climbers, mountaineers and snowsports tourers who live in Scotland or who enjoy Scotland's mountains. We represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering, and provide training and information to mountain users for safety, self-reliance and the enjoyment of our mountain environment.
3. This section of road has traditionally provided overflow parking for hillgoers seeking informal outdoor recreation when the Coire Cas car park is full. Parking restrictions on this section of road will result in displacement of overflow vehicles to the Coire Ciste car park, or whatever parking is available further down the hillside.
4. We are concerned that reference to the Cairngorm and Glenmore Strategy is lacking in the rationale for this proposal. The key short term step in this strategy is to improve effectiveness of existing car parks and reduce roadside parking. This TRO proposal addresses the roadside parking issue but fails to demonstrate that it is working with initiatives to improve the effectiveness of the existing parking provision to accommodate any overspill, and which meets the needs of visitors.
5. Lack of strategic parking provision can disadvantage active tourism visitors who wish to walk, climb or go snowsports touring on the wider mountainside, especially in snow conditions in winter and with shorter daylight hours.
6. The Coire Cas and Coire Ciste car parks are the concern of Cairngorm Mountain (Scotland) Limited and their ski resort business, which may not be aligned entirely with the aspirations of visitors to the wider area of Glenmore, Northern Corries and beyond, for outdoor recreational activities throughout the year.
7. We hope that The Highland Council and Cairngorm National Park Authority have assessed the demand and aspirations of hillgoers, and the availability and use of existing car parking. It would be in everyone's best interests to demonstrate that car parking demand for active tourism visitors is

being managed and not merely restricting parking availability to keep the road free of obstruction, denying visitors the opportunity to enjoy their informal outdoor recreation on the mountain.

8. Public transport from Aviemore has improved but does not adequately meet the needs of many walkers, climbers and snowsports tourers. In addition, the land managers charging for car parking in the area all operate different charging structures. We would encourage public agencies to develop a single transferable system so that car parking tickets are the same price and can be used at any Cairngorm and Glenmore car park, with income clearly reinvested in visitor infrastructure.

9. In summary, Mountaineering Scotland **objects** to the TRO as it is a stand-alone measure that fails to demonstrate that it is part of an effective strategy to manage active tourism in Glenmore, Northern Corries and the wider mountain beyond.

Yours sincerely



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