

By email to: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

Ms Lucy Prinz  
Planning Officer  
The Highland Council

24 August 2023

Dear Ms Prinz


**Installation of a new telecommunications base station comprising of a proposed 20m height Swann lattice tower complete with 3No new antennas, 4 no. 600mm diameter dishes and ancillary ground based equipment cabinets and generator other ancillary development with a new compound enclosed by a 1.2m high timber stock proof fence | Land 825M NW Of Lagangarbh Glencoe**

**Planning Reference: 23/03215/FUL**

1. Mountaineering Scotland **objects** to the proposal under the Shared Rural Network initiative for a new telecommunications mast near to Lagangarbh in Glencoe, on the slopes adjacent to The Devi's Staircase, due to the inability to assess any adverse visual impact on the landscape and qualities of the National Scenic Area through lack of information provided by the applicant.
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 tourists 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. Our interest lies with potential effects on mountaineering interests, specifically in this case the visual impact on landscape of the proposed compound and access track, as seen from the popular hillwalking route on The Devil's Staircase, and views of it from the A82.
4. It is impossible to make any reasonable assessment of the landscape and visual impact of this proposal due to the lack of site-specific detail. It needs viewpoints from the A82 and the West Highland Way, to be assessed against the special qualities of the NSA.
5. There is also not any information on cumulative and sequential impact with other infrastructure, especially with a similar telecoms proposal for the White Corries ski centre. Given that these masts need to be linked to form a network, what other proposals are anticipated, so that a true effect of the impact of the network on the NSA can be assessed.
6. The applicant hasn't demonstrated how this installation will be constructed and construction impacts restored, or if will affect peat soils.
7. The need for digital connectivity is a policy imperative, for local residents and businesses. We support this policy aim. NPF4 Policy 24 is relevant here, and this proposal fails to demonstrate how many local residents and business will benefit from this new proposal.

10. Mountaineering Scotland **objects to this proposal** and urges The Highland Council to reject it as inadequate to properly assess landscape and visual impacts on the NSA.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Black". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small vertical line to the left of the first letter.

**Davie Black**  
**Access & Conservation Officer**  
**Mountaineering Scotland**

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