



Press Release

26 January 2016

For immediate release

Mountaineers' 'profound disappointment' at camping byelaws decision

The Mountaineering Council of Scotland has expressed its profound disappointment at the decision by Dr Aileen MacLeod, Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform to approve the introduction of additional camping management byelaws at lochside locations in the Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park.

David Gibson, MCoFS CEO, said: "While the decision by the Minister to approve byelaws is most disappointing, she does acknowledge that steps must be taken by the Park Authority to manage lochside issues more effectively. We felt that Police Scotland and the Park Authority already had those powers and that the new byelaws were completely unnecessary.

"There is some positive news in that the Park Authority is required to accelerate the well overdue introduction of new camping facilities prior to the implementation of the byelaws.

"We believe that an outcome of the byelaws will be that they will criminalise those who would otherwise wish to exercise their rights to wild camp responsibly under the terms of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. As such, this decision goes against the rights to responsible access provided in the Act.

"While we do not consider this to be a positive day for access rights in Scotland, we will continue to work with the National Park Authority and others to protect the rights of walkers and climbers."

Ends

Notes for editors

Images for this press release are downloadable here:

www.mcofs.org.uk/assets/david_gibson_mcofs_chief_officer.jpg

David Gibson, Chief Officer of the Mountaineering Council of Scotland

Further information

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About the MCofS

- The MCofS acts to represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering.
- The MCofS is the only recognised representative organisation for hill walkers, climbers and ski-tourers who live in Scotland or who enjoy Scotland's mountains.
- The MCofS is a membership organisation with over 12,000 members representing hill walkers, climbers and mountaineers.
- The MCofS also acts for 75,000 members of the BMC or British Mountaineering Council on matters related to Landscape and Access in Scotland.
- MCofS landscape and access work is supported financially by the Scottish Mountaineering Trust and the BMC
- The MCofS is a not for profit company limited by guarantee and incorporated in Scotland. Company number SC322717.
- The Mountaineering Council of Scotland, The Old Granary, West Mill Street, Perth PH1 5QP