



The Mountaineering Council of Scotland

The Old Granary
West Mill Street
Perth PH1 5QP
Tel: 01738 493 942

Please reply by email to david@mcofs.org.uk

Example

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Dear XXXXX

Political Party Position on Respecting Scotland's Mountains

I am pleased to enclose a copy of the Mountaineering Council of Scotland's vision "Respecting Scotland's Mountains". We are asking party leaders to comment on the following points in advance of the general election:

1. Does the XXXXX Party support the key elements articulated in Respecting Scotland's Mountains?
 - 1.1 Scotland's mountains and remaining wild lands should be treated as an **irreplaceable natural, cultural and economic asset** – respected and safeguarded for the benefit of all;
 - 1.2 Their wildness and grandeur are a fabulous resource, and they provide unrivalled opportunities to **develop and improve informal recreation, tourism, health and wellbeing through Scotland's world-class access legislation**;
 - 1.3 Scotland should harness the potential of the mountains and wild and to contribute to a foundation for **sustainable futures for fragile rural economies**;
 - 1.4 **Change should be planned and regulated** to enhance, not diminish, our wild lands and mountains. Stopping intrusive developments such as industrial-scale wind farms will protect Scotland's natural heritage, wildlife, culture and world-wide reputation as a great tourism destination and place to live;
 - 1.5 **Appreciation and enjoyment of the mountains including good practice and responsibility** (avoiding litter, erosion and other damage) should be promoted from childhood.
2. Does the XXXXX Party agree that large scale developments including wind farms and inappropriate mountain tracks have the potential to seriously damage Scotland's mountain landscape?

3. How would the XXXXX Party seek to strengthen planning criteria to provide better protection to Scotland's mountain and wild land landscapes?

4. Would the XXXXX Party modify the current system of financial incentives to promote low-carbon electricity generation so as not jeopardise Scotland's mountain landscape?

It is our intention to publish your response to our members and other interested organisations and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Linington
President
The Mountaineering Council of Scotland