



Scottish Council for National Parks

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Mr. Bob Elliot  
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Dear Mr. Elliot

### **REGULATION OF SEAPLANE OPERATIONS ON LOCH LOMOND**

The Scottish Council for National Parks (SCNP) was formed originally in 1943 and operated until 1967, when it was stood down as a result of the setting up of the Countryside Commission for Scotland. It was reconstituted in 1990 following the publication of the CCS's report on the 'Mountain Areas of Scotland' for Government, which recommended the creation of National Parks in Scotland. The SCNP's primary aim is to promote the protection, enhancement and enjoyment of nationally outstanding areas that are National Parks, or are appropriate to be designated as such, or are of sufficient merit to warrant special protection. This is manifest in our support for good stewardship of the country's best environmental assets and encouragement of sustainable methods of development, particularly within areas of national park potential. SCNP is a recognised Scottish Charity.

SCNP welcomes the opportunity to respond to your consultation on the creation of a new byelaw to regulate seaplane operations on Loch Lomond. Council has made a number of representations to the Park Authority and has written to the CAA and the Scottish Executive on the issue since the possibility of regular services on Loch Lomond brought the matter to the fore.

We have consulted with colleagues in the National Park community and can find no example anywhere where seaplanes are permitted to operate for recreational or commercial purposes within an established National Park unless a seaplane is the only practical means of accessing remote areas. We consider that the use of seaplanes in such a sensitive and high quality environment is incompatible with its designation as a National Park.

In addition, if the activity were to intensify, we consider that it would only be a matter of time before public safety became a pressing issue. As such, it is unthinkable that the activity should go unregulated and we welcome the judgement that the activity requires Planning Permission.

Council has also considered the policy background set out in the consultation paper and supports the proposal to consider any applications under the proposed byelaw against the five criteria laid down.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Maund  
Chairman