



**Scottish Natural Heritage**

All of nature for all of Scotland

CNPA 18

Mr Don McKee  
Cairngorms National Park Authority  
Albert Memorial Square  
Ballater  
Aberdeenshire

15 October 2010  
Our ref: CNS/REN/WF/Dorenell

Dear Mr McKee

**The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2000 Section 36 application for the Dorenell wind farm on the Glenfiddich Estate, south east of Dufftown, Moray for Infinergy.**

I am writing to clarify SNH's position on the above planning application and how it relates to the potential impacts upon the Cairngorms National Park.

In our formal response to the consultation from the Energy Consents Unit dated 18 June 2009, we stated:

*SNH is not so strongly opposed to the visual impact to warrant an objection or to pursue a significant reduction in the overall size of the wind farm and accepts the current design and layout. Accordingly **SNH has no objection to the proposal as submitted on grounds of landscape or visual impact.***

In making this statement I confirm that we did so without consideration of the potential impacts upon the landscape and visual amenity of the Cairngorms National Park. This was not because we believe that the impacts upon the Cairngorms National Park are unimportant, but because we have agreed with the Cairngorms National Park Authority that we should avoid duplication of effort over cases of mutual interest.

This approach is set out in the "Agreement on SNH and CNPA roles in casework in and around the Cairngorms National Park". The purpose of this agreement is to outline the respective roles of SNH and CNPA in advising on the natural heritage implications of development control and land-use change casework in and around the Cairngorms National Park. It sets out how the two organisations will work together to maximise efficiency and minimise duplication. CNPA and SNH both share an interest in conserving and enhancing the outstanding natural heritage of the National Park, and promoting its understanding and enjoyment. For both bodies this interest is specifically defined in the founding legislation. In general either CNPA or SNH, but not both, will take a leading role on any natural heritage aspect of casework.

In preparing our response to the Dorenell wind farm proposal, which lies outside the National Park but could affect it, we have followed the role for SNH that is set out in the SNH/CNPA Casework Agreement. Under this agreement CNPA advises on any

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impacts that proposals outside the Park may have on the National Park designation. SNH advises on implications for other nationally and internationally important natural heritage interests, plus any more local concerns that may be of significance.

Since writing our letter of 18 June, it has become our general practice to state much more explicitly in our relevant consultation responses that we have agreed with the Cairngorms National Park Authority that they, and not SNH, should assess and advise on the impacts upon the National Park. The more recent practice of making an explicit statement recognises the fact that the lack of an SNH response to a proposal may incorrectly be taken to imply that we do not consider the matter to be important. It also recognises explicitly the credibility of the CNPA to provide this advice without reference to SNH.

I hope that this clarifies our respective roles and positions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Bale'.

Dr David Bale

Area Manager, Grampian