

## UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

### National Access Forum – 49 th meeting

Battleby: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019

#### Present:

	Representatives	Organisation
1	David Henderson Howat	Convenor - National Access Forum (NAF)
2	Janice Winning	Secretary - National Access Forum (NAF)
3	Lee Craigie*	Active Nation Commissioner
3	Frank Spencer - Nairn	Association of Deer Management Groups (ADMG)
4	Helene Mauchlen	British Horse Society Scotland (BHSS)
5	Colin Shedden	British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC)
6	Paul Timms	Cycling UK Scotland
7	Alan Mackay	Duke of Edinburgh (Scotland)
8	Phil Whitfield*	Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS)
9	Stephen Jenkinson	Kennel Club / Scottish Kennel Club
10	Nick Cole	Local Access Forums (LAF)
11	Angus Duncan	Local Authorities
12	Davie Black	Mountaineering Scotland (MS)
13	David Clyne	National Park Authorities (CNPA)
14	Jamie Smart	National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS)
15	Rona Gibb	Paths for All Partnership (PfA)
16	Insp. Alan Dron	Police Scotland
17	Helen Todd/Luke Phillips*	Ramblers Scotland (RS)
18	Jonathan Kitching	SAPOE
19	Eddie Palmer	Scottish Canoe Association (SCA)
20	Malcolm Duce	Scottish Government (SG)
21	Kevin Lafferty	Scottish Forestry (SF)
22	Jason Rust	Scottish Land & Estates (SLE)
23	Alan Macpherson/Mark Wrightham*	Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
24	Bridget Jones *	Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
25	Douglas Wright/George Menzies*	Scotways
26	Eleisha Fahy	Scotways
27	Roy Barlow	Woodland Trust Scotland

\*in attendance as additional representatives or speakers

**Item 1 – Welcome** – the Convenor opened the meeting with a welcome to all attending, including new representative Jason Rust (SLE). Also in attendance as observers were Emma Steel (SLE) and Annabel Drysdale (SNH).

**Apologies:** Lois Bayne Jardine (HHAS), Paul Timms (Cycling UK Scotland), Kathy Velander (Wild Scotland), Eileen Stuart (SNH), Kenny Auld (LLTNP), Steven Dora (SG), Roger Scrutton (SSA) and Gillian Kyle (SS).

**Item 2 – Minutes, Action points and matters arising from previous meeting**

1. Minutes: - the unconfirmed minutes of the 29 May 2019 were presented to the Forum and approved. The link to the VisitScotland presentation now on the SOAC website would be added to the minutes.
2. Action points & matters arising –

### **Summary action points:**

**AP 48/1:** IPA review sub group to meet late June/early July, develop a draft NAF submission and provide an update to NAF in September. *Discharged:* review sub group met 20 August 2019, update agenda item 11.

**AP 48/2:** Ramblers Scotland to provide an update from the Mapping Scotland's Paths project at the September meeting. *Discharged:* Agenda item 12.

**AP 48/3:** Feedback from the mediation sub group to be presented at the September meeting. *Discharged:* agenda item 10.

**AP 48/4:** Forum members were asked to send any other topic suggestion for next year's Joint NAF/LAF meeting to the NAF secretary. *Discharged:* agenda item 13.

**AP 48/5:** An update from the group working on messaging about dogs and livestock and the work with Young Scot would be presented to the September NAF meeting. *Discharged:* agenda item 7.

**AP 48/6:** Secretary to re-invite the Active Nation Commissioner to the September NAF meeting. *Discharged:* agenda item 4.

### **Item 3 - Reports from Convenor and Secretary**

3. The Convenor reported that he had attended both the mediation sub group meetings and the IPA review group meeting. He also presented a short paper at the SOAN event regarding recent case law on access rights. He welcomed the current SG consultation - Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 – Revised Guidance for Local Authorities and National Park Authorities 2019 and encouraged individual members to respond by the 20 November deadline. The Convenor also highlighted the National Transport Strategy consultation which includes relevant issues for NAF including active travel and enjoying the outdoors. Forum members considered it to be a refreshing strategy linking transport with climate change and worthy of a short response from NAF. Other items suggested for inclusion were the importance of the transport hierarchy, problems with single track roads and the safety for cyclists. Members agreed that the Convenor prepare a short draft response to be circulated for comment.

**AP49/1:** Convenor to draft a response to the National Transport Strategy to be circulated to the Forum for comments.

### **Item 4 - Active Nation Commissioner**

4. The Convenor welcomed Lee Craigie the Active Nation Commissioner for Scotland. Lee outlined her new role to encourage people out of their cars to walk, and cycle thereby improving their physical and mental health from being in the outdoors. The work is funded jointly from health and transport budgets and seeks to change both behaviour and infrastructure to help more people to get active. Over the last 10 months Lee has met with a range of stakeholders; local authorities and key organisations, campaigning

groups and members of the public to seek views and see where the links are. She invited views from the Forum.

5. In discussion, Jonathan Kitching raised the issue of single track road use and the need to educate drivers and cyclists about sharing this space. Lee agreed that this was an issue especially with the growth in tourism and cycle tourism. Alan Dron said that Police Scotland supported some form of driver education and were also working with 'bike ability' to discuss this issue. Alan Macpherson said he was aware of work on the NC500 about how to drive on single track roads and that it should be possible to include cyclists in this mix. Lee welcomed further conversations with drivers and cyclists on this issue. Jamie Smart also highlighted the need for more discussion with landowners on shared use of single track roads especially at harvest time when there is an increase in tractors on the road.
6. Helene Mauchlen said that horse riders also share these single track roads. She recommended that any educational promotion on multi use should include horses and highlighted a short film about to be produced by cyclists and horse riders on shared infrastructure in forests. Helene also highlighted the work on multi use that had been prepared for Scotland's Great Trails and offered to provide Lee more details on this SNH funded study. Lee gave an example of a community based trail in Colorado where trail management is a shared effort helping to bring different user groups together.
7. David Clyne asked about the political appetite to make changes in relation to climate change and whether this could be fed back into the transport strategy. Lee confirmed that there is now political support for joining up effort to address active travel and climate change - but that it can be difficult to secure resources, and there can be a long time lag between project design and implementation.
8. Helen Todd made a plea to get funding for additional paths to get people out and about. She argued that the focus on active travel often misses the investment required for recreational use by walkers. Rona Gibb agreed, suggesting more use of surfaces that are walker friendly, rather always building heavily engineered paths designed for active travel. Active travel need not be two wheels - it is about people walking and providing opportunities for people to be out and about in the widest sense.
9. Kevin Lafferty explained the importance of getting other funding partners involved in developing paths. Whilst Transport Scotland is seen as the primary funding source there is also a need to find funding for general paths and for the maintenance of existing networks (such as Scotland's Great Trails and the NWCN). Further investment in paths is needed to get more people walking.
10. Stephen Jenkinson raised the issue of managing conflicts (e.g. cyclists and walkers with dogs) and recommended a joined-up approach at the planning level so improvements for one group do not cause problems elsewhere. He stressed the importance of adequate resources to address these issues and welcomed facilitation by the Commissioner.
11. Lee welcomed the views expressed especially on multi use issues and encouraged further contact from Forum members via email: [activenationcommissioner@gmail.com](mailto:activenationcommissioner@gmail.com).

#### **Item 5 – E-bikes**

12. The Convenor introduced the discussion paper on e-bikes and invited views from members.

13. Phil Whitfield noted the huge enthusiasm for the benefits that e-bikes bring to society. The technology can help deliver a healthier, more active, carbon neutral society as well as allowing groups with different abilities to do things together. He highlighted the need to understand how to make better use of the growing interest in e-bikes, as well as investigating the challenges, such as the impact on fragile habitats. He noted that Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) and Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland are organising a (UK-wide) meeting at Glentress to discuss the issues and gaps in knowledge with a view to better planning for growing e-bike use.
14. There was some uncertainty expressed by members around the 'motorised' status of e-bikes. The Convenor noted that as e-bikes are classed as "electrically assisted pedal cycles" for the purposes of road traffic legislation the Forum had previously come to the view that they may not count as 'motorised vehicles' under the access legislation, in which case access rights would apply; however, this position has not been tested in the courts. Mark Wrightham said that SNH had obtained a legal opinion on this question, and while this could not definitively resolve the uncertainty, it suggested that e-bikes would not be "motorised" in the sense of section 9(f). He agreed to share this with the Forum.
15. David Clyne recommended that members should focus on the health benefits from e-bikes rather than their legal status. Lee Craigie agreed that they bring benefits by encouraging people to be more active, and recommended working with the industry on good practice that could be promoted at points of sale.
  - A number of other issues were raised by the Forum including:
  - Use of e-bikes across fields of livestock
  - Impacts on fragile environments
  - Concern over the speed of e-bikes (e.g. by tuning them to increase maximum speed)
  - Concern over e- scooters, which are illegal on the roads and on other tracks.
  - The possible need for specific e-bike trails
  - Concern over any potential increase light weight scrambling bike using similar tracks
16. Nick Cole reported that there were already examples of where e-bike use was causing problems especially over fragile terrain. Davie Black said that speed in combination with the silence from e-bikes is a problem for shared use. Alan Macpherson agreed that shared use was a key issue especially the speed of e-bikes in relation to walkers and the physical impacts. He said that SNH would be keen to input into further discussions with FLS. Phil Whitfield said that although current work was progressing at a UK level, there could be Scotland-specific issues and solutions.
17. The Convenor invited Phil Whitfield to provide an update to the January NAF meeting following his meeting at Glentress to allow further discussion of these issues by the Forum.

**AP 49/2:** FLS to report back to the January meeting.

### **Item 6 – Informal Camping**

18. Nick Cole introduced this item which had been raised by the Local Access Forums and Mountaineering Scotland due to the rise in irresponsible camping in some areas and the misuse of the term 'wild camping' to describe this behaviour by the press. He argued that the SOAC does not provide a really good definition of what wild camping is, and that camping rights under the access legislation are increasingly being used by some people as an excuse for irresponsible camping (and associated overnight parking). He suggested developing 3 or 4 definitions to describe the different types of wild camping.

19. Davie Black agreed, saying that there had been a noticeable increase in irresponsible roadside camping. In response to this Mountaineering Scotland is now using the term 'dirty camping' to separate irresponsible camping from responsible 'wild camping'. He suggested more awareness raising was required along with a range of solutions, e.g. more resources locally to deal with the problems, co-ordination at a community planning partnership level and more effective promotion of SOAC principles and NAF guidelines on informal camping.
20. In discussion, Malcolm Duce said that as there were no plans to review the Code this was a matter of practical delivery. Nick Cole reiterated the need to reclaim the term 'wild camping' using NAF and LAF guidance, and communicate this better. Jamie Smart highlighted the lack of resources locally to tackle the problem which left land managers isolated, adding that it was a bigger issue than many people realise. Helen Todd questioned whether it was a growing problem or whether it was just attracting more publicity. She suggested that the NAF guidance on informal camping is more relevant for managers and that more targeted messages for the public are required. Roy Barlow explained that the Woodland Trust points people towards the SOAC, but its wording is rather general and so he favoured more specific guidance for different locations.
21. Stephen Jenkinson pointed out that problems range from criminal behaviour to uninformed non-compliance with SOAC. He agreed that there was a need to raise awareness, with the Code setting the national context, but there was also a need for local management solutions, supporting people to do the right thing. The aim should be to encourage wild camping, not to suppress it. There is a need for better evidence about types of problems and where they occur, and the response needs to be proportionate and not too generalised. Alan Dron agreed saying there is always a small part of society that have no desire to conform and pay no regard to bylaws, and that rangers and landowners can help to encourage responsible behaviour.
22. Eddie Palmer said that there were rarely problems reported from the Scottish Canoe Association who promote the 'leave no trace' approach. He agreed that further promotion of the NAF guidance would be helpful. Phil Whitfield doubted that the issue will completely go away. Informal camping has not had much impact on the National Forest Estate but he thought clearer messages to reduce irresponsible camping is worth doing as there is a significant group that can be influenced. David Clyne agreed saying there was an appetite for public agencies to work together. There had been issues in the Cairngorms National Park (CNP) but often these were exaggerated by the media so there is need to gather better data. The CNP are planning a five year programme to look at trends and then see what interventions are required.
23. Jamie Smart agreed that a lot can be achieved through clearer messages and more informal campsite provision. However, he reiterated that there was little guidance for private land owners to deal with human waste, fire, debris etc. Mark Wrightham said that we have the existing NAF guidance on informal camping and that multi-pronged solutions were possible by tailoring the existing material for different audiences. He added that there was potential to take a targeted approach working with key local authorities.
24. Jonathan Kitching asked about the work of Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) in influencing young people. Alan Mackay replied that promoting responsible action by young people is very much part of their remit and the DofE education programme covers SOAC. Young people on expeditions are taught to leave campsites immaculate.
25. The Convenor asked the Forum how they wished to take this forward. It was agreed that it would be useful to develop some simple clear messages about responsible wild

camping for key target audiences (e.g. wild campers, roadside campers and campervan users). The following members volunteered to attend a one-off meeting to take this forward: Davie Black, Phil Whitfield, Jason Rust, Mark Wrightham, Alan Dron, Helen Todd, Nick Cole, David Clyne, Jamie Smart, Alan Macpherson, Angus Duncan, Alan Mackay.

**AP 49/3:** Secretary to set up a meeting of the interested members in Nov/Dec.

### **Item 7 - SOAC messaging**

26. Mark Wrightham provided an update on the main areas of activity:

- i) Dogs and livestock – work is underway with a small group of NAF members to look at the scope for providing clearer messaging about dogs and livestock based on the current advice in the Code. The group is due to meet on 4 October to discuss messaging and the co-ordination of campaigns for next year and will feedback to the January meeting.
- ii) Code messages for young people – SNH's co design work with Young Scot is progressing. An on-line survey of young people was extended and findings show a similar level of awareness about the Code as with the general population. However, there appears to be relatively little awareness of the relevance of the Code to urban and peri-urban areas. The importance of responsible behaviour in relation to dogs, camping, fires and what to do around livestock was recognised. The responses suggest that preferred modes of messaging are social media and visual approaches including Instagram and videos but also some preference for paper products too.
- iii) General SOAC campaigns - Further promotion of responsible camping and the seasonal promotion of 'Heading for the Scotland's hills' is underway. SNH is also working with VisitScotland to further promote the Code for tourists. Mark emphasised the need to balance high level messaging on general Code awareness against the need for targeted messaging and the need to prioritise the latter.

### **Item 8 – Forestry and Land Scotland**

27. Phil Whitfield outlined the access related work of the new Scottish Government agency Forestry and Land Scotland. The CEO is Simon Hodgson and each of the 5 regions has a 'Visitor Services Manager' as the main access contact. Phil is the National VSM and will act as the corresponding member for NAF. The main areas of access work at the moment include involvement in the Borderlands Initiative in Southern Scotland, developing tourism, and re-focusing way-marking of the path network to get more people active on shorter routes with wow factor.

28. He also highlighted a piece of work on campervans where they are looking at creative solutions to help people do the right thing. This was a joint area of work with VisitScotland and the campervan hire sector and he welcomed views from the Forum. Jamie Smart suggested the involvement of Police Scotland as there can be illegal activity e.g. parking in gateways etc. Alan Macpherson said that SNH would be happy to contribute to the meeting on campervans.

### **Item 9 – 'Scotland's on a roll'**

29. Alan Macpherson introduced a short animated film commissioned by SNH to promote headline messages from the latest 2017/18 Scotland's People and Nature Survey. The survey reveals an increase in the number of people visiting the outdoors each week but

also identifies some groups that remain inactive. The film is aimed at a broad professional audience to encourage a collective effort to reach under-represented groups as well as sharing the good news story and celebrating access rights. Forum members were encouraged to promote the film.

(See <https://youtu.be/DD5E-2BhNdo> and <https://youtu.be/DMgtenjir4>.)

### **Item 10 - Mediation**

30. Eddie Palmer reported back from the NAF mediation sub group which had met on the 26 June and on the 6 September 2019 as detailed in the discussion paper. He informed the Forum that the consultation on mediation had been positive with considerable support for the production of a guidance note and suggestions of what it may contain, Annex 1 of the paper summarised these responses and Annex 2 provided a draft outline of a future guidance note. He invited comments from the Forum on the recommendations from the sub group namely that they should begin to develop a short guidance note.
31. The Convenor added that the SG draft Revised Guidance for Local Authorities and National Park Authorities include a number of explicit references to the use of mediation. Eddie explained that Local Access Fora would continue to use informal mediation to try to resolve disputes, and it was envisaged that perhaps only 2-3 cases per year would go to formal mediation. The Convenor stressed the importance of using a professional mediator with knowledge of access rights.
32. Alan Macpherson mentioned a recent proposal for a Private Members Bill to increase use of mediation as an illustration of the wider interest in mediation and as a possible source of further guidance. Douglas Wright asked whether the costs would put people off and if there were options for financial support. Elisha Fahy explained that formal mediation would be one option on spectrum of approaches, ranging from informal discussions through to Court action. Formal mediation would be cheaper than going to Court and also has the potential to narrow down the issues (so that if the case subsequently goes to Court the costs would be less).
33. The Forum agreed that the sub group should proceed with preparation of a draft guidance note for further discussion at the January NAF meeting and that Scottish Mediation could be invited to provide a short presentation at the joint NAF/LAF meeting in late March 2020.

**AP 49/4:** Mediation sub-group to draft a guidance note

**AP 49/5:** Scottish Mediation to be invited to the NAF/LAF joint meeting at the end of March.

### **Item 11 – Review of Improving Public Access (IPA) Scheme**

34. Bridget Jones reported on the current SNH review of the IPA scheme as outlined in the update paper and the input received from the NAF subgroup meeting on 20 August 2019. The review has looked at the data on IPA and what has been achieved on the ground and is beginning to gather stakeholder views on the scheme. Early findings show support for IPA as the funding mechanism for path projects in rural areas although there are also concerns over the maintenance of other routes.
35. The NAF subgroup identified a number of specifics to be addressed in any future scheme including cash flow for applicants; front loading the scheme to improve planning, design and path quality. Connectivity also needs to be improved i.e. making sure paths are connected to networks or facilities and ensuring future planning for a rural paths scheme fits with a Scotland wide approach to the network as a whole.

36. The review is approximately half way through with the consultation now focusing on the applicants, access authorities and key stakeholders. The draft findings from the review will be presented to the Forum in January. In discussion, Jamie Smart added that IPA funding is still important for landowners wanting to create paths in peri-urban areas, cautioning against the assumption that it can be covered by active travel funding sources. Davie Black also supported access schemes through farmland to get on and off the hills which is very important for recreation.
37. Helene Mauchlen informed the Forum of a joint letter from BHS and SLE to Roseanna Cunningham asking that farmland used exclusively for paths and tracks should remain eligible for funding under the CAP Basic Payment Scheme, in order to encourage greater uptake in the IPA scheme. The Minister's reply outlines why under EU legislation the specification for new or upgraded paths means that they are considered ineligible.

**AP49/6:** Secretary to circulate the joint BHS and SLE letter of 4 September and the reply from the Minister.

**AP 49/7:** SNH to present a final draft of the findings from the IPA review at the 29 January NAF meeting.

### **Item 12 – Path Mapping**

38. The Convenor welcomed Luke Phillips the new Path Mapping Project Manager with Ramblers Scotland who explained how the project was progressing. A test area has been established encompassing North Ayrshire, West Dunbartonshire, Inverclyde, Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and part of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park which includes a good mix of urban and rural land. A steering group as well as a larger 'proof of concept' group has been set up to guide the project and regular updates will be provided to external partners at key stages. Initial work includes looking at the definition and criteria for paths to be mapped. Data sharing is restricted to a handful of organisations at present.
39. Forum members asked a number of questions about the project and offered further input into path definition work. Alan Macpherson recommended the inclusion of beaten paths in the mapping exercise. Jamie Smart stressed the importance of talking to land managers and checking paths on the ground rather than relying too much on desk work, and the need for a simpler mechanism for changing routes. Helen Todd confirmed that the project would include ground truthing and Luke outlined a potential function for switching off certain paths at certain times of year e.g. during the lambing season. Mark Wrightham highlighted the distinction between mapping routes and promoting routes, suggesting that a map by itself is unlikely to greatly increase footfall.
40. Phil Whitfield asked how the dataset will be maintained if new paths appear and others disappear and recommended the inclusion of a robust model for updating the data. Luke explained that the project envisaged twice a year updates from third party data. Kevin Lafferty said that expectations surrounding the project are high but it will be more about testing the approach through this pilot and discovering what the long terms solution for path mapping might be. He suggested that a national data set of paths will become more important as expectations for activity increases.
41. A further update of the project would be presented to the Forum at the May meeting.

### **Item 13: Forth Coming meetings — prospective agenda items**



42. The following items were identified for the **29 January 2020** Forum meeting:
- E-bikes (Phil Whitfield & Graham Maclean)
  - Mediation – draft guidance note from the sub group
  - IPA – Findings from the review (Bridget Jones)
  - Informal camping – promoting NAF guidance and targeted messages
  - A review of bylaws in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
43. Frank Spencer Nairn raised the issue of the promotion of routes in publications (both paper and electronic) without the agreement or knowledge of the landowner and the problems that can arise. He suggested a 'code of conduct' could provide some peer pressure for publishers to do the right thing.
44. Mark Wrightham explained that the Code did refer to this in para 3.63, but agreed that it was a challenge especially with the growing online communication and promotion of routes. Other members agreed that this was an issue especially with social media promotion but also difficult to influence. Helen Todd mentioned discussions with Walk Highland as a responsible organisation that might be able to provide some insight for future discussions.

**AP 49/8:** Secretary to invite Walk Highlands to a future NAF meeting.

45. The Convenor sought views on the approach for the planning of the **NAF/LAF Joint meeting March 2020**. He suggested a similar format to last year i.e. LAF Led topic sessions; along with a report on a number of key areas of NAF work e.g. mediation, SOAC messages for young people. He recommended that a small group meets in December to develop a draft programme and invited views on other potential topics. Rona Gibb suggested 'hidden disabilities' as a topic to include work on dementia, autism etc. Jamie Smart offered a talk from NFUS to highlight land manager issues for LAFs. Rona and Jonathan volunteered to be part of the planning group.

**AP 49/9** Secretary to set up a NAF/LAF joint meeting planning group in December.

#### **Item 14 – Any Other Business**

46. Rona Gibb outlined some of the recent work of Paths for All and related health initiatives;
- i. The new National Walking Strategy micro site and animation  
[www.stepchangescot.scot](http://www.stepchangescot.scot)
  - ii. Latest Scottish Household Survey results;  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-people-annual-report-results-2018-scottish-household-survey/> . Along with transport and travel data  
<https://www.transport.gov.scot/media/45656/tatis-2018.pdf> and A Scottish Household Survey topic report – [A Single Step](#)
  - iii. The Public Opinion Survey – National Survey of Attitudes and Barriers to Walking <https://www.pathsforall.org.uk/news/news-post/scots-take-steps-to-better-health> (news item) and document  
<https://www.pathsforall.org.uk/mediaLibrary/other/english/paths-for-all-national-survey---final-report---final-version-reformatted-11th-october-2019.pdf>
47. Kevin Lafferty highlighted the Outdoor Recreation Conference on 'Emerging Trends', 22-23 Oct at Dartmoor National Park,
48. Helen Todd said that recent research looking at 'barriers to walking', funded jointly between Ramblers Scotland and Paths for All, would be published soon.

49. Davie Black highlighted Mountaineering Scotland's new anti-litter campaign **#TakItHame** which is being promoted through social media networks. Details are available at: <https://www.mountaineering.scot/conservation/campaigns/tak-it-hame>

**Date of Next Meetings -**

**NAF – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020 - Battleby**

**NAF/LAF (date tbc)- Friday 20 or Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

**NAF - Friday 5 June 2020 at Oatridge SRUC Campus, Broxburn tbc**

**Close** – The Convenor thanked all those attending, and closed the meeting.

**Summary Action Points**

**AP 49/1:** Convenor to draft a response to the National Transport Strategy to be circulated to the Forum for comments.

**AP 49/2:** FLS to report back to the January meeting.

**AP 49/3:** Secretary to set up a meeting of the interested members in Nov/Dec

**AP 49/4:** Mediation sub-group to draft a guidance note

**AP 49/5:** Scottish Mediation to be invited to the NAF/LAF joint meeting at the end of March.

**AP49/6:** Secretary to circulate the joint BHS and SLE letter of 4 September and the reply from the Minister.

**AP 49/7:** SNH to present a final draft of the findings from the IPA review at the 29 January NAF meeting.

**AP 49/8:** Secretary to invite Walk Highlands to a future NAF meeting.

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