



NEWS RELEASE

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SCF baffled by Cairngorm National Park's attitude to crofting reform

The Scottish Crofting Foundation have expressed their disappointment that the Cairngorm National Park have chosen not to respond to consultation on the current proposed Crofting Reform Bill

At a question and answer session on Tuesday morning at the SCF's annual gathering in Grantown on Spey, the convenor of Cairngorm National Park, David Green, admitted that they had not responded to the Scottish Government's present consultation process on the draft Crofting Reform Bill.

Mr Green said: "We didn't actually respond to the consultation process. There were a lot of consultation processes ongoing at that time and we couldn't respond to all of them. We have to be selective about which consultations we respond to."

He added: "We as a Non Departmental Public Body are working closely with government and so it is not always appropriate to respond to a consultation."

Marina Dennis, the SCF vice chair and Crofters Commission assessor, who crofts near Nethy Bridge in the National Park, said:

"As a crofter living in the Park I find it disappointing that the Park chose not to convey the views of the National Park Authority to government given that they were aware of crofters' views. I don't understand why David said that it wasn't appropriate for the National Park to participate in the consultation process just because they are working closely with government.

"He had just been emphasising how they are seeking to promote the cultural and environmental diversity of the landscape within the Park, and the centrality of crofters and small farmers to that. This is the Park's vision. Had they responded to the consultation it would have been an opportunity to articulate that vision.

END

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Notes to editors

- The Scottish Crofting Foundation is the largest association of small-scale food producers in the UK.
- Pictures can be found at: <http://www.croftingfoundation.co.uk/index.php/home>