

## Annex A

**26 January 2024**

**From:** [redacted – personal information] **On Behalf Of** National Parks

**Sent:** Friday, January 26, 2024 2:32 PM

**To:** Drew Millar (Councillor) <Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk>

**Cc:** [redacted – personal information] @gov.scot>; National Parks

<NationalParks@gov.scot>; [redacted – personal information] @gov.scot>; John

Finlayson (Councillor) <John.Finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk>; Calum Munro

(Councillor) <Calum.Munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk>; [redacted – personal information]

@highland.gov.uk>; [redacted – personal information] @highland.gov.uk>; [redacted

– personal information] @highland.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Ms Slater's visit to nominating areas

Dear Drew

Thank you for coming back to us. We of course completely understand that you are not yet in a position to confirm if Skye and Raasay will be proceeding with a nomination and we look forward to hearing from you on this in due course.

Kind regards

[redacted – personal information]

Scottish Government | Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Policy Officer | New National Park(s)

Biodiversity Unit | Nature Division

 3H South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

[redacted – personal information] | (he/him)

**From:** Drew Millar (Councillor) <Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk>

**Sent:** Friday, January 26, 2024 2:02 PM

**To:** National Parks <NationalParks@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [redacted – personal information] @gov.scot>; [redacted – personal information]

@gov.scot>; John Finlayson (Councillor) <John.Finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk>;

Calum Munro (Councillor) <Calum.Munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk>; [redacted –

personal information] @highland.gov.uk>; [redacted – personal information]

@highland.gov.uk>; [redacted – personal information] @highland.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Ms Slater's visit to nominating areas

Hello [redacted – personal information],

Sorry not responding to your original email.

We are not in a position at this moment to decide whether an application will be submitted and therefore can not really give a date for the Minister to visit as we understand it would only be the areas submitting an application that would desire a visit. Are we correct with that understanding.

We should be in a position to decide whether we move forward with an application once our consultation is concluded week beginning January 29<sup>th</sup>.

Hope this in order,

Regards,

Drew

**25 January 2025**

**From:** [redacted – personal information] **On Behalf Of** National Parks

**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 5:15 PM

**To:** Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk

**Cc:** [redacted – personal information] @gov.scot>; [redacted – personal information] @gov.scot>; John.finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk;

Calum.munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk; [redacted – personal information]

@highland.gov.uk; [redacted – personal information] @highland.gov.uk; [redacted – personal information] @highland.gov.uk

**Subject:** RE: Ms Slater's visit to nominating areas

Dear Councillor Millar

We are following-up on our email regarding the Minister's visits to nominating areas.

We wonder if the Skye and Raasay nominating group intend on hosting the Minister on one of the proposed dates noted in the below table? We should be grateful if you would please let us know as soon as possible so that we may reflect this in the Minister's diary and make the necessary travel arrangements.

If you have any questions, please do let us know at [nationalparks@gov.scot](mailto:nationalparks@gov.scot) in the first instance. We are also happy to arrange a phone or Teams call, if that would be helpful.

Kind regards

[redacted – personal information]

Scottish Government | Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Policy Officer | New National Park(s)

Biodiversity Unit | Nature Division

 3H South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

[redacted – personal information] | (he/him)

**12 January 2024**

**From:** [redacted – personal information] **On Behalf Of** National Parks

**Sent:** Friday, January 12, 2024 3:11 PM

**To:** [Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk)

**Cc:** [redacted – personal information] @gov.scot >; [redacted – personal information] @gov.scot >; National Parks <[NationalParks@gov.scot](mailto:NationalParks@gov.scot)>;

[John.finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:John.finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk); [Calum.munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Calum.munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk); [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk

[redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk

**Subject:** Ms Slater's visit to nominating areas

Dear Councillor Millar

We are looking forward to receiving new national Park nominations at the end of February and we appreciate the significant amount of work that nominating groups have undertaken to date. As you will be aware, once the nominations have been submitted the process of appraising and selecting the area or areas to be taken forward for designation as Scotland's next National Park(s) will begin.

As part of this process, the New National Parks team are seeking to make arrangements for the Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity to visit each area that submits a nomination.

The aim of the visits will be for the Minister to meet with representatives of each nominating group and for her to hear more about each nomination and see first-hand some of the key features, local opportunities and challenges and characteristics of the areas.

What you may wish to present and highlight during the visit will be a decision for nominating groups based on what they feel will best showcase their area's case. As you are aware, the appraisal process will be based on the published criteria and we would advise that groups consider this when planning a programme for the Minister's visit. The Minister's preference is for an outdoor visit rather than an office based discussion. Where appropriate, the Minister would welcome part of the visit being active (i.e. walking or cycling). We expect visits to last for half a day (around 2-3 hours) and any questions can be directed to [nationalparks@gov.scot](mailto:nationalparks@gov.scot) in the first instance. We would also be happy to arrange a phone call or Teams call to discuss this further if helpful.

To assist us at this stage, we are asking if each nominating group could indicate which dates from the list below would/would not be suitable as well as indicating where the starting point of the visit would be. This is to allow for logistical planning and assessing transport options for attendees. The Minister's preference is to travel to each location by public transport wherever possible.


<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Availability</b>	<b>Starting Location</b>
Tuesday 2 April 2024	Morning	Y/N	
	Afternoon	Y/N	
Wednesday 3 April 2024	Morning	Y/N	
	Afternoon	Y/N	
Thursday 4 April 2024	Morning	Y/N	
	Afternoon	Y/N	
Monday 8 April 2024	Morning	Y/N	
	Afternoon	Y/N	
Tuesday 9 April 2024	Morning	Y/N	
	Afternoon	Y/N	
Wednesday 10 April 2024	Morning	Y/N	
	Afternoon	Y/N	
Thursday 11 April 2024	Morning	Y/N	

	Afternoon	Y/N	
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We should be grateful if you would please confirm availability no later than 24 January 2024 by return to [nationalparks@gov.scot](mailto:nationalparks@gov.scot).

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

[redacted – personal information]  
Scottish Government | Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
Policy Officer | New National Park(s)  
Biodiversity Unit | Nature Division  
: 3H South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ  
[redacted – personal information] | (he/him)

**15 December 2023**

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 15, 2023 5:25 PM  
**To:** Drew Millar (Councillor) <Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [redacted – personal information]@gmail.com>; [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>; [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: National Park

Hi Drew

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you on this.

I think a helpful document for you to look at is the report of Cairngorms National Park authority's annual accounts for 2021-22:

[2021\\_22\\_CNPA\\_Accounts.pdf \(cairngorms.co.uk\)](#)

For example, on page 65 of this document there is a breakdown of the NPA's expenditure on conservation, visitor experience, rural development, corporate services and communications. The authority was awarded £8.965m in Grant in Aid from Scottish Government in 2022.

Funding for any new National Park would depend on a range of factors and cannot be determined until an area has been selected and the proposed boundary, powers and functions of the National Park have been agreed.

I'm hoping that you have already received this information from Lateral North, but just to confirm that the presentations from the workshop (along with the film) are now available online:

[New National Park online technical workshop - Recordings of presentations | NatureScot](#)

And answers to the frequently asked questions are available here:

[New National Park - Frequently Asked Questions | NatureScot](#)

Hope this is helpful and wishing you a good weekend.

Best wishes

[redacted – personal information]

**14 December 2023**

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** Thursday, December 14, 2023 3:55 PM

**To:** Drew Millar (Councillor) <Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk>

**Cc:** [redacted – personal information]@gmail.com>

**Subject:** RE: National Park

Hello Drew

I should be able to give you some information about the Cairngorms NPA budget and what it is used for which I hope will be helpful – leave it with me and we'll come back to you asap.

Best wishes

[redacted – personal information]

**From:** Drew Millar (Councillor) <Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk>

**Sent:** Thursday, December 14, 2023 3:51 PM

**To:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [redacted – personal information]@gmail.com>

**Subject:** National Park

Hello [redacted – personal information],

Can you give me any info on the budget given to the Cairngorm NP and is there any info on what the possible budget would be and what would the budget be permitted to be used for,

Regards,

Drew

Councillor Drew Millar  
Highland Council Ward 10  
Chair North PAC

Vice Chair Education

[redacted – personal information]

**11 December 2023**

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 11, 2023 9:42 PM  
**To:** Drew Millar (Councillor) <Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Recording

Hi Drew

Good to hear from you. Are you referring to the recording of the workshop that we held last Monday with all of the presentations? If so, the individual presentations are being made available online along with an updated Frequently Asked Questions document. They should be available from tomorrow onwards (I can send you the link as soon as it goes live).

If I've misunderstood and you're referring to something else please do let me know!

Best wishes

[redacted – personal information]

**From:** Drew Millar (Councillor) <[Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 11, 2023 9:39 PM  
**To:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Recording

Hi [redacted – personal information],

Sorry to bother you but I tried to watch the recording of our last meeting and couldn't open it so I am wondering if it would be possible to send me a link and also two others who could not attend would like to see it. I would be happy to give the access as well,

Regards,

Drew

Councillor Drew Millar  
Highland Council Ward 10  
Chair North PAC  
Vice Chair Education  
[redacted – personal information]

**21 November 2023**

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:56 AM  
**To:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>; [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>; [redacted – personal information]@nature.scot; [redacted – personal information]@nature.scot; [redacted – personal information]@nature.scot

**Subject:** RE: New National Parks - online technical workshop on Monday 4 December from 14:30 - 17:30

Hello [redacted – personal information]- It would be good to hear what folk are saying so an invite would be much appreciated.

Many thanks

[redacted – personal information]

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:47 AM  
**To:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>; [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>; [redacted – personal information]@nature.scot; [redacted – personal information]@nature.scot; [redacted – personal information]@nature.scot  
**Subject:** RE: New National Parks - online technical workshop on Monday 4 December from 14:30 - 17:30

Thank you [redacted – personal information] (and team). I will certainly be attending and look forward to hearing the discussions.

Best wishes

[redacted – personal information]

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:17 AM  
**To:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk >  
**Cc:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot; [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot; [redacted – personal information]@nature.scot; [redacted – personal information]@nature.scot; [redacted – personal information]@nature.scot

**Subject:** New National Parks - online technical workshop on Monday 4 December from 14:30 - 17:30

Dear [redacted – personal information] and [redacted – personal information]

Hope you are both very well.

As I mentioned during the presentation at the Skye & Raasay area meeting, we are organising an online technical workshop for groups that are developing a proposal to become Scotland's next National Park.

The workshop will explore what National Park designation means in practice. It will include short presentations by guest speakers from National Park authorities, voluntary organisations, land managers and the business community who will share





Please find attached, for review, the draft minute of the Isle of Skye and Raasay Committee meeting held on 6 November, 2023. Please advise me of any changes/comments by Monday, 27 November, 2023.

Regards

[redacted – personal information]  
Democratic Services  
The Highland Council

**6 November 2023**

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>

**Sent:** Monday, November 6, 2023 10:38 AM

**To:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>; [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>; [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>; [redacted – personal information]@lateralnorth.com

**Cc:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Skye & Raasay Area Committee

That's the item before yours just started if you want to join the meeting now.

Kind Regards

[redacted – personal information]  
Ward Manager  
Wards 5 & 10  
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh and Eilean a' Cheo  
[redacted – personal information]

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>

**Sent:** Monday, November 6, 2023 10:27 AM

**To:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: New National Parks -Eilean a' Cheo - Area Committee Meeting on 6 November

Hello [redacted – personal information] – I will e-mail you when to join – could you tell your team – I suspect it will be after 11am

thanks

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot

**Sent:** Monday, November 6, 2023 10:20 AM

**To:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: New National Parks -Eilean a' Cheo - Area Committee Meeting on 6 November

Sorry [redacted – personal information], should we join the call at 10:30 or will you let us know what time to join?

Thanks!

[redacted – personal information]

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 6, 2023 9:53 AM  
**To:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot >; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [redacted – personal information] highland.gov.uk >; [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot >; [redacted – personal information] highland.gov.uk >  
**Subject:** RE: New National Parks -Eilean a' Cheo - Area Committee Meeting on 6 November

Hello [redacted – personal information]– you will be able to share your slides on teams.

[redacted – personal information]

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 6, 2023 9:39 AM  
**To:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>; [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: New National Parks -Eilean a' Cheo - Area Committee Meeting on 6 November

Hi [redacted – personal information] and [redacted – personal information]

I have prepared 6 powerpoint slides that I would like to share during my presentation if that's okay – should I send them to you or would you be able to give my colleague [redacted – personal information] the permission in order for him to share the slides during the meeting?

Best wishes

[redacted – personal information]

### **3 November 2023**

**From:** John Finlayson (Councillor) <[John.Finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:John.Finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 3, 2023 5:51 PM  
**To:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.>; [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot >; : [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk >; Drew Millar (Councillor) <[Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk)>; Calum Munro (Councillor) <[Calum.Munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Calum.Munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk)>; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk >

**Subject:** RE: New National Parks -Eilean a' Cheo - Area Committee Meeting on 6 November

Hi [redacted – personal information],  
[redacted – personal information] or [redacted – personal information] will invite you in and keep in communication and indicate when we are nearly at your item.  
John

**John Finlayson**  
**Councillor**  
**Eilean a' Cheo Ward**  
**Chair- Highland Council- Education Committee**

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 3, 2023 4:17 PM  
**To:** john.finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk  
**Cc:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>; [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>; drew.millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk; Calum.munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk  
**Subject:** RE: New National Parks -Eilean a' Cheo - Area Committee Meeting on 6 November

Dear Cllr Finlayson and [redacted – personal information]

Just a quick follow up to confirm that the following staff members from Lateral North would be keen to join the meeting on Monday:

[redacted – personal information], Director  
[redacted – personal information]

[redacted – personal information], Designer

[redacted – personal information]  
Best wishes

[redacted – personal information]

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 3, 2023 3:57 PM  
**To:** John Finlayson (Councillor) <[John.Finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:John.Finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>; [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>; Drew Millar (Councillor) <[Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk)>; Calum Munro (Councillor) <[Calum.Munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Calum.Munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk)>; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** New National Parks -Eilean a' Cheo - Area Committee Meeting on 6 November

Dear Councillor Finlayson

Thank you for the helpful meeting this morning to prepare for the new National Parks item at your area committee meeting on Monday 6 November.

Here is an outline of what I would plan to cover in my presentation on new National Parks and the nomination, appraisal and designation process:

- Context – the Bute House Agreement commitment to designate at least one new National Park in Scotland by 2026
- Background on National Parks in Scotland – what they are designed to do and the flexibility in the legislation to tailor a new National Park to the circumstances and needs of the area
- The nominations process and timeline (including the nomination form and the guidance document)
- The criteria for new National Parks
- The support that is being made available to groups: Lateral North support, film, technical workshop, FAQ document
- What happens after 29 February 2024: appraisal, Ministerial decision, statutory reporter process, preparation of designation order

Hopefully that includes the main points we discussed earlier, but please do let me know if I have missed anything.

As I mentioned, we would be grateful if Lateral North could be invited to attend the meeting since they have been awarded the contract to provide support to nominating groups. (We have asked them to confirm which staff member should be invited and will let [redacted – personal information] know asap). I would also be grateful if my colleagues [redacted – personal information] and [redacted – personal information] in the new National Parks team could also be invited to Monday's meeting:

[redacted – personal information]@gov.scot

[redacted – personal information]@gov.scot

Finally, it would be very helpful if you could let us know whether we should attend the meeting from 10:30am onwards or whether it would be better to join slightly later (depending on your estimate of the time that will be required for the previous agenda items).

Many thanks and best wishes

[redacted – personal information]

[redacted – personal information] | Team Leader – National Parks | Nature Division | Directorate for Environment and Forestry | Scottish Government | [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot |

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>

**Sent:** Friday, November 3, 2023 2:52 PM

**To:** National Parks <NationalParks@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Update on Support for Nominating Groups

Cheers

[redacted – personal information]

### **23 October 2023**

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 23, 2023 9:51 AM  
**To:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk >; Drew Millar (Councillor) <[Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: New National Parks - Introductory Meeting - Eilean a' Cheo - Follow up

Hi [redacted – personal information]

Yes I can make that – grateful if you can send me the meeting link.

Best wishes

[redacted – personal information]

### **19 October 2023**

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2023 10:49 AM  
**To:** [redacted – personal information]@scot.gov>  
**Cc:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk >; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk >; Drew Millar (Councillor) <[Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: New National Parks - Introductory Meeting - Eilean a' Cheo - Follow up

Hello [redacted – personal information] - Skye Councillors wondered if you might be able to attend a *teams* pre meeting with them on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 9:30 to discuss the presentation on the 6<sup>th</sup> but also to better understand the level of support which might be available.

Regards

[redacted – personal information]

### **17 October 2023**

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 1:57 PM  
**To:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk >  
**Cc:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk >  
**Subject:** RE: New National Parks - Introductory Meeting - Eilean a' Cheo - Follow up

Hi [redacted – personal information]

Thanks – that would be very helpful.

Best wishes

[redacted – personal information]

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 1:56 PM

**To:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: New National Parks - Introductory Meeting - Eilean a' Cheo - Follow up

Hello [redacted – personal information]- Just to let you know we have a meeting with Skye Councillors Thursday morning and I will come back to you after this to confirm presentation content and likely questions

Regards

[redacted – personal information]

### **12 October 2023**

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot

**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2023 3:25 PM

**To:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>

**Cc:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>; [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: New National Parks - Introductory Meeting - Eilean a' Cheo - Follow up

Hello [redacted – personal information]

Good to hear from you and apologies for the delay in getting back to you and providing an update on the points in your email. I just wanted to check first of all whether you had received the email from my colleague [redacted – personal information] this morning with regard to the launch of the nominations process as I think there may have been an error with your email address. I'm attaching it again just in case.

In terms of the questions you have asked:

- We should have much more clarity on the external organisation that we are contracting to provide support by 27 October. We are asking all groups to discuss and articulate the type of support they think they will need by that date. We can then discuss this with the supplier and confirm what is possible so they can start work from November onwards.
- The other expression of interest from Skye was from [redacted – personal information] and she has withdrawn since speaking to Councillors (she will support the Skye bid). Most of the areas that have submitted expressions of interest are named in our news release and some of them are in Highland – Lochaber, Glen Affric and Affric to Alladale. -

- We would be happy to provide a presentation to the Skye and Rasaay area committee on 6<sup>th</sup> November at 11am. I would be grateful if you could send us details of who will be attending and the subject areas / questions that it would be helpful to cover during the presentation.

Best wishes

[redacted – personal information]

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2023 2:51 PM

**To:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>; [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk >; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk >

**Subject:** RE: New National Parks - Introductory Meeting - Eilean a' Cheo - Follow up

Hello [redacted – personal information]/ [redacted – personal information]

I see the nomination process is now open but wonder if you can update on the points below.

Many thanks

[redacted – personal information]

**From:** [redacted – personal information]  
@gov.scot>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2023 1:06 PM

**To:** [redacted – personal information]  
@highland.gov.uk

**Cc:** [redacted – personal information]  
@gov.scot>; [redacted – personal information]  
@gov.scot>; National Parks <NationalParks@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Letter to Eilean a' Cheo (Skye and Raasay) - copy to [redacted – personal information]- New National Park(s) - Launch of Nominations Phase 12 October 2023

Dear [redacted – personal information]

We had sent this letter to Councillor Millar with you on copy, however, it came to my attention that your email had been inserted incorrectly.


Whilst all other recipients received the below email, you did not. Apologies for this.

Please now find attached the original correspondence addressed to Councillor Millar.

Kind regards

[redacted – personal information]



Scottish Government | Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
Policy Officer | New National Park(s)  
Biodiversity Unit | Nature Division  
: 3H South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ  
[redacted – personal information]@gov.scot | (he/him)

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2023 12:31 PM  
**To:** Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk  
**Cc:** John.finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk; John.finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk;  
Calum.munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk; [redacted – personal information]  
@highland.gov.uk; [redacted – personal information]  
@highland.gov.uk; [redacted – personal information]  
@highland.gov.uk; [redacted – personal information]  
@gov.scot>; [redacted – personal information]  
@gov.scot>; National Parks <NationalParks@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** New National Park(s) - Launch of Nominations Phase 12 October 2023


Dear Drew

We are delighted to inform you that today the new National Park(s) Nominations Phase has officially launched.

Please find attached a detailed letter with links to the published nomination form, guidance and appraisal framework.

We look forward to receiving your nomination in due course.

Kind regards

[redacted – personal information]  
Scottish Government | Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
Policy Officer | New National Park(s)  
Biodiversity Unit | Nature Division  
: 3H South, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ  
[redacted – personal information]@gov.scot | (he/him)

Environment and Forestry Directorate  
Nature Division



Email: [NationalParks@gov.scot](mailto:NationalParks@gov.scot)



Councillor Drew Millar  
[Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk)

cc:

[John.finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:John.finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk)

[John.finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:John.finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk)

[Calum.munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Calum.munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk)

[Redacted – personal information]

[Redacted – personal information]

[Redacted – personal information]

12 October 2023

Dear Drew

### **New National Park(s) in Scotland – nomination process begins**

It was a pleasure to meet you recently regarding your interest in nominating your area to become a new National Park.

We are delighted to inform you that the National Park nomination process has opened today, 12 October 2023. Nominations must be drafted, finalised and submitted to us no later than 29 February 2024 using the standard nomination form that we have published (see below). A timetable for the nomination and appraisal process was provided in our previous letter and is annexed to this letter for ease of reference.

We have today published the following documents:

- [Guidance](#) for communities and organisations that wish to submit a nomination
- Appraisal framework (this is included in the guidance document and is available using the link above)
- [Standard nomination form](#)
- A [news release](#) confirming the nomination launch

These documents are also available on the Scottish Government [website](#).

### **Appraisal framework guidance**

Earlier this year we published a draft appraisal framework with broad selection criteria for consultation. The [appraisal framework consultation analysis](#) has assisted us in the development of the final appraisal framework that has been published today. This framework sets out the broad criteria against which nominations will be appraised. It also includes some of the relevant types of evidence and indicators that groups may wish to include as part of their nomination. Nominations will be appraised on the merits of the overall proposal and they should aim to demonstrate – with evidence – how they meet each of the criteria.

The broad criteria are:

- outstanding national importance
- size, character and coherence
- meeting the special needs of the area
- strategic contribution
- visitor management and tourism
- local support

Separately, compatibility with the application of regulatory frameworks surrounding existing and planned projects and activities for the area will be considered as part of the appraisal process.

As set out in the guidance, all areas of Scotland are eligible to submit nominations to become a new National Park (including those that have current or potential onshore wind developments). To ensure any National Park addresses the climate emergency and supports progressive development, Scottish Government will develop new bespoke planning policy on onshore wind to be applied in new National Parks. This means that a new National Park will be treated differently to existing National Parks with respect to NPF4 policy for onshore wind.

### **Support to nominating groups**

We are in the process of procuring the services of an impartial, third party organisation that can provide support to communities and organisations looking to explore or take forward a proposal. We will be in touch shortly when further details of this support offer are confirmed. In the meantime, we would encourage you to start considering any support services that you may require.

We are also planning to organise an online technical workshop for groups that are in the process of developing nominations. The aims of this workshop would be to examine what National Park designation means in practice for an area and to share perspectives from the Park authority and stakeholders within the two existing National Parks. Please let us know if there are any particular questions or themes that you would find it helpful for the workshop to address.

### **Proposals to amend the National Parks legislation**

Separately, as you may already be aware, we are proposing to make some changes to the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 in order to strengthen the leadership role of National Parks in tackling the interlinked crises of climate and biodiversity.

We have published a [consultation on the strategic framework for biodiversity and national parks legislation](#). We are inviting responses to this consultation by 14 December 2023 using the Scottish Government's consultation hub [Citizens Space](#). We have also prepared [a Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\) report](#) relating to the proposal to designate at least one new National Park and the proposed changes to the National Parks legislation. We are consulting on this SEA from 21 September to 14 December 2023 alongside the consultation on the biodiversity framework and National Parks proposals.

We would be happy to discuss any aspects of the nominations process and the proposed legislative changes with you in more detail if that would be helpful. If you have any questions, please get in touch.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted – personal information], [Redacted – personal information] and [Redacted – personal information]

New National Parks Team  
 The Scottish Government  
 Victoria Quay  
 Edinburgh EH6 6QQ  
[NationalParks@gov.scot](mailto:NationalParks@gov.scot)

### Annex A - Timeline

Process Stage	Description	Date
Launch of nominations process	The nominations process for new National Parks formally opens. The appraisal framework (with selection criteria), standard nomination form and guidance for nominating groups are published on the Scottish Government website.  Scottish Government will also confirm the support that will be available to nominating groups.	October 2023
Support to nominating groups	Deadline for nominating groups to request support services (e.g. to help facilitate community engagement on the development of new National Park nominations).	October 2023
Nomination phase	The period during which individuals, groups and organisations will develop and submit their proposals. Nominating groups should use the standard nomination form and demonstrate how their nomination meets the criteria set out in the appraisal framework. Nominations should demonstrate evidence of engagement with stakeholders and affected communities.	October 2023 – February 2024
Deadline for nominations	Deadline for the submission of nominations to be received by Scottish Government.	29 February 2024
Appraisal of nominations	All nominations will be appraised based on the criteria set out in the appraisal framework. The Scottish Government may request additional	Spring 2024

	information from nominees. Appraisal report will be prepared for Ministers.	
Confirmation of nomination(s) to be progressed as 'National Park proposal(s)'	Scottish Government to announce the nomination(s) to be taken forward as proposals for designation as a National Park, subject to relevant legal conditions being met, including the compatibility with other regulatory frameworks in place or planned for the area. The statutory reporter investigation will then commence. Scottish Ministers will then decide and announce the area or areas to be designated as new National Park(s) subject to parliamentary approval.	Summer 2024 onwards

**6 October 2023**

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk

**Sent:** Friday, October 6, 2023 2:47 PM

**To:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot; [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot

**Cc:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk >; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk >

**Subject:** RE: New National Parks - Introductory Meeting - Eilean a' Cheo - Follow up

Hello [redacted – personal information]/ [redacted – personal information] ( apologies [redacted – personal information] as I didn't catch your surname)

Thanks for taking the time to meet with us last week. There are a few follow up points/actions that I would like to discuss/confirm with you if possible.

1 When actually will we know what level of support is available to help progress National Park nominations locally - critical for Skye.

2 Are you able to confirm who the other *pre-registration* group/individual is from Skye (are there any others in Highland other than Lochaber). Councillors are keen to engage with any other groups in Skye/Highland.

3 We discussed the opportunity for someone from you team to attend the next Skye ad Raasay Area Committee; I can now confirm that this will be held on the **6<sup>th</sup> of November** ( circa 11.00) and a presentation from your team would be much appreciated. This can be a virtual meet and details can be forwarded in due course .

I look forward to hearing from your soon.

Regards

[redacted – personal information]

Service Lead - Environment, Planning and Sustainable Travel.

## **29 September 2023**

**From:** Calum Munro (Councillor) <Calum.Munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk>

**Sent:** Friday, September 29, 2023 9:57 AM

**To:** National Parks <NationalParks@gov.scot>; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>; John Finlayson (Councillor) <John.Finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk>; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>

**Cc:** Drew Millar (Councillor) <Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: New National Parks

Please excuse me from the 11am meeting. A local issue has arisen and I'll be in a meeting at that time. I hope it goes well and look forward to hearing the outcome.

Mise, le dùrachd

Calum

### **Calum Rothach**

**Cathraiche Comataidh na Gàidhlig, Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd**

Comhairliche Neo-eisimeileach Uard Eilean a' Cheò

[calum.munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:calum.munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk)

[redacted – personal information]

**Lèirsinneach – Seasmhach – Co-cheangailte**

### **Calum Munro**

**Chair of Gaelic Committee, Highland Council**

Independent Councillor – Eilean a' Cheò Ward

[calum.munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:calum.munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk)

[redacted – personal information]

**Ambitious – Sustainable - Connected**

## **28 September 2023**

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 28, 2023 2:53 PM

**To:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk

**Subject:** New National Parks - Introductory Meeting - Eilean a' Cheo

**When:** 29 September 2023 11:00-11:30 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Hi [redacted – personal information]–

I will be trying to attend, but may struggle as have a NatureScot/Nature Networks meeting just beforehand at Velocity. I'm not sure how you're fixed, but if you have a window I think it would be useful.

Thank you

[redacted – personal information]

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 28, 2023 2:51 PM  
**To:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>; National Parks <NationalParks@gov.scot>; John Finlayson (Councillor) <John.Finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk>; Calum Munro (Councillor) <Calum.Munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Drew Millar (Councillor) <Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: New National Parks

Thanks all –

I have received the invite, thanks [redacted – personal information]. I am in a meeting starting at 10 with NatureScot across the other side of Inverness so will endeavour to be back at HQ in time for the meeting. If I don't make it please accept my apologies in advance. I will forward the invite to [redacted – personal information] also who may be available.

Best

[redacted – personal information]

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 28, 2023 1:44 PM  
**To:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk  
**Subject:** New National Parks - Introductory Meeting - Eilean a' Cheo  
**When:** 29 September 2023 11:00-11:30 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.  
**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Dear Drew,

As per our emails, thank you for interrupting your holiday to join this introductory meeting to discuss the New National Parks process and nominations.

Best,

[redacted – personal information]

---

## Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID:

Passcode:

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

United Kingdom, Edinburgh

Phone Conference ID:

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

SCOTS Connect - Please note - You must have the explicit permission of the organiser to record this meeting and its attendees, using any technology.

[Learn more](#) | [Help](#) | [Meeting options](#)

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 28, 2023 11:50 AM  
**To:** National Parks <NationalParks@gov.scot>; John Finlayson (Councillor) <John.Finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk>; Calum Munro (Councillor) <Calum.Munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk>; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Drew Millar (Councillor) <Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: New National Parks

I should be able to join and like Cllr Munro I haven't received a link for joining.

In addition, the Council Officer who has had an initial conversation with the Members regarding the EOI is [redacted – personal information] and it may be worth including him in the invite if he is available to attend.

Kind Regards

[redacted – personal information]  
Ward Manager  
Wards 5 & 10  
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh and Eilean a' Cheo  
[redacted – personal information]

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 28 September 2023 11:09  
**To:** [redacted – personal information]@nature.scot>  
**Cc:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** National Parks Presentation for Skye & Raasay area committee

Hi [redacted – personal information]–

Hope you're well. As I'm sure you will be aware, Ward 10 (Skye and Raasay) members recently unanimously decided to pre-register their interest in Skye and Raasay being considered a new National Park, and submitting a nomination when the window opens.

The Skye and Raasay area committee are meeting on 6 November to formally and publicly acknowledge the registration, and have asked for a presentation that outlines the national park process, timeframes, next steps etc – something very similar to the presentation that you have already given for the climate Change committee and during the Members workshop that you kindly attended. Members would be very appreciative if NatureScot could attend and give such a presentation to them on this date, if you or a colleague are available. The committee meets virtually via Teams, and the presentation need not be any longer than 5-10 mins. We would be happy to discuss content if that would be helpful. Myself (and possibly [redacted – personal information]) would be present to field any questions, certainly as this relates to the Council, on the day.

If you could let me know I would be very grateful so I can let the committee clerk know to include you NS on the agenda.

Kind regards

[redacted – personal information]

[redacted – personal information] | Environment Team Leader | Infrastructure,  
Environment & Economy | Highland Council

**From:** Calum Munro (Councillor) <Calum.Munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 28, 2023 11:08 AM  
**To:** John Finlayson (Councillor) <John.Finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk>; National  
Parks <NationalParks@gov.scot>; [redacted – personal  
information]@highland.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Drew Millar (Councillor) <Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: New National Parks

I should be able to join but I don't see the link.

Mise, le dùrachd

Calum

**Calum Rothach**  
**Cathraiche Comataidh na Gàidhlig, Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd**  
Comhairliche Neo-eisimeileach Uard Eilean a' Cheò  
[calum.munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:calum.munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk)  
[redacted – personal information]  
**Lèirsinneach – Seasmhach – Co-cheangailte**

**Calum Munro**  
**Chair of Gaelic Committee, Highland Council**  
Independent Councillor – Eilean a' Cheò Ward  
[calum.munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:calum.munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk)  
[redacted – personal information]  
**Ambitious – Sustainable - Connected**

**From:** John Finlayson (Councillor) <John.Finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 28, 2023 11:05 AM  
**To:** National Parks <NationalParks@gov.scot>; Calum Munro (Councillor)  
<Calum.Munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk>; [redacted – personal  
information]@highland.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Drew Millar (Councillor) <Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: New National Parks

Hi All,  
I cannot attend tomorrow at 11.00 but I am sure Drew will keep me posted.  
Regards,  
John

**John Finlayson**  
**Councillor**  
**Eilean a' Cheo Ward**  
**Chair- Highland Council- Education Committee**



**From:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of**  
[NationalParks@gov.scot](mailto:NationalParks@gov.scot)

**Sent:** Thursday, September 28, 2023 10:35 AM

**To:** John Finlayson (Councillor) <[John.Finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:John.Finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk)>; Calum Munro (Councillor) <[Calum.Munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Calum.Munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk)>; [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>

**Cc:** Drew Millar (Councillor) <[Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** FW: New National Parks

Dear John, Calum, [redacted – personal information],

Following my emails with Councillor Drew Millar below, he has suggested you may also wish to attend this introductory meeting to discuss the new National Park process and your nomination.

I have forward you the meeting invitation and link and look forward to meeting you if you are able to join.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if there are any issues or questions.

Best,

[redacted – personal information]

[redacted – personal information] | Project Lead – New National Park(s) | Biodiversity Team | Nature Division | Scottish Government

**27 September 2023**

**From:** Drew Millar (Councillor) <[Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 27, 2023 6:01 PM

**To:** National Parks <[NationalParks@gov.scot](mailto:NationalParks@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** Re: New National Parks

Hi

That's good. So the other two cllrs who may wish to join are

[John.finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:John.finlayson.cllr@highland.gov.uk)

[Calum.munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Calum.munro.cllr@highland.gov.uk)

Our ward manager is [redacted – personal information] who if available might wish to join as well.

His email is [redacted – personal information]

Look forward to seeing you on Friday

Drew

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** National Parks  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 27, 2023 5:36 PM  
**To:** Drew Millar (Councillor) <Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** National Parks <NationalParks@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: New National Parks

Thanks Drew,

I've sent over a meeting invite with MS Teams link for 11.00am. If there are others involved with the development of the bid you feel would be useful to join, please do let me know and I can include them in the invitation.

(With a storm currently approaching here in Scotland, I do hope you're able to make the most of the sun.)

We look forward to meeting you then and discussing your nomination and the next steps in the process.

Best,

[redacted – personal information]  
[redacted – personal information] | Project Lead – New National Park(s) | Biodiversity Team | Nature Division | Scottish Government

**From:** Drew Millar (Councillor) <Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 27, 2023 5:24 PM  
**To:** National Parks <NationalParks@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Re: New National Parks

Hi,  
It will be nice to get out of the sun for a while so 11 or just after sounds fine with me. Will you send me a teams invite or how will it work,

Regards

Drew

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:** Drew Millar (Councillor) <Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 27, 2023 4:24 PM  
**To:** National Parks <NationalParks@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Re: New National Parks

Hello,

I am on holiday at the moment but would be happy to have a chat with on Friday. What time are you proposing,  
Regards

Drew Millar

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot on behalf of [NationalParks@gov.scot](mailto:NationalParks@gov.scot) <[NationalParks@gov.scot](mailto:NationalParks@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 26, 2023 6:26:32 PM

**To:** Drew Millar (Councillor) <[Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** New National Parks

Dear Drew,

Following your registration of interest, please see attached some further information and an invitation to an introductory meeting with the New National Parks team.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Best,

[redacted – personal information]

[redacted – personal information] | Project Lead – New National Park(s) | Biodiversity Team | Nature Division | Scottish Government

**26 September 2023**

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** National Parks

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 26, 2023 5:27 PM

**To:** Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk

**Subject:** New National Parks

Dear Drew,

Following your registration of interest, please see attached some further information and an invitation to an introductory meeting with the New National Parks team.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Best,

[redacted – personal information]

[redacted – personal information] | Project Lead – New National Park(s) | Biodiversity Team | Nature Division | Scottish Government

Environment and Forestry Directorate  
Nature Division



Email: [NationalParks@gov.scot](mailto:NationalParks@gov.scot)

Cllr Drew Millar  
Ward 10 Eilean A' Cheo - Highland Council  
[Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk)

26 September 2023

Dear Drew

### **New National Park(s) in Scotland – launch of nomination process**

Thank you again for registering early interest in submitting a nomination for a new National Park in Scotland. We are writing to provide you with an update on the nomination process and timescale. We would also welcome an initial introductory discussion with you before the launch of the nomination process.

Scottish Ministers are expected to announce the launch of the nomination process for new National Parks in early October. (The exact date is still to be confirmed). On the launch date we will publish the following documents on the Scottish Government [website](#):

- Guidance for communities and organisations that wish to submit a nomination
- Appraisal framework with selection criteria
- Standard nomination form

Communities and organisations will have until 29 February 2024 to submit their nominations using the standard form. A more detailed timeline is attached at Annex A.

We are in the process of procuring the services of an impartial, third party organisation that can provide support to communities and organisations during the nominations phase if this support is required. The type of services to be provided include support to organise, host and facilitate community engagement and participation events and support and advice to groups on the development of nominations and the appraisal framework and criteria.

We will contact you again on the launch date to ensure you have all of the available information.

In advance of the launch of nominations, we would welcome the opportunity to have a brief introductory online meeting with you. The purpose of the meeting would be to provide you with an opportunity to meet our team and ask any initial questions that you may have at this stage. It would also provide an opportunity for you to briefly

outline your proposal and the individuals, organisation(s) or community that are likely to be involved in the development of your nomination.

We are anticipating media interest when we launch the nominations phase and it is likely that we will be asked which communities or areas have registered interest. It would therefore be helpful if you could consider this in advance of the launch and confirm (i) whether you are content for your registration of interest to be made public; and (ii) any contact details that we would be able to provide in response to media enquiries that we may receive.

**We would be grateful if you could let us know your availability for a short introductory online meeting on Thursday 28 September, Friday 29 September or Monday 2 October 2023.**

If none of these dates are suitable, please let us know and we will try our best to find a convenient time.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted – personal information], [Redacted – personal information] and [Redacted – personal information]

New National Parks Team  
The Scottish Government  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ  
[NationalParks@gov.scot](mailto:NationalParks@gov.scot)

#### **Annex A - Timeline**

<b>Process Stage</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
Launch of nominations process	The nominations process for new National Parks formally opens.  The appraisal framework (with selection criteria), standard nomination form and guidance for nominating groups are published on the Scottish Government website.  Scottish Government will also confirm the support that will be available to nominating groups.	October 2023
Support to nominating groups	Deadline for nominating groups to request support services (e.g. to help facilitate community engagement on the development of new National Park nominations).	October 2023

Nomination phase	The period during which individuals, groups and organisations will develop and submit their proposals. Nominating groups should use the standard nomination form and demonstrate how their nomination meets the criteria set out in the appraisal framework. Nominations should demonstrate evidence of engagement with stakeholders and affected communities.	October 2023 – February 2024
Deadline for nominations	Deadline for the submission of nominations to be received by Scottish Government.	29 February 2024
Appraisal of nominations	All nominations will be appraised based on the criteria set out in the appraisal framework. The Scottish Government may request additional information from nominees. Appraisal report will be prepared for Ministers.	Spring 2024
Confirmation of nomination(s) to be progressed as 'National Park proposal(s)'	Scottish Government to announce the nomination(s) to be taken forward as proposals for designation as a National Park, subject to relevant legal conditions being met, including the compatibility with other regulatory frameworks in place or planned for the area. The statutory reporter investigation will then commence. Scottish Ministers will then decide and announce the area or areas to be designated as new National Park(s) subject to parliamentary approval.	Summer 2024

#### **4 September 2023**

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** National Parks

**Sent:** Monday, September 4, 2023 9:56 AM

**To:** Drew Millar (Councillor) <Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk>

**Cc:** National Parks <NationalParks@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Scotlands £rd National Park

Dear Drew,

Thank you for registering your interest in submitting a nomination for a new National Park in Scotland. We expect the nominations period to commence later in the Autumn this year.

We have recently completed a public consultation on the appraisal framework which will support the new National Park selection process and we will be publishing the results of this consultation shortly. While it is now closed for responses, you can access the consultation information here - <https://consult.gov.scot/environment-forestry/new-national-parks-appraisal-framework>

We will contact those who have registered their interest with any key dates, information and updates throughout the process.

Kind regards,

New National Park(s) Team

[redacted – personal information] | [Project Lead – New National Park\(s\) | Biodiversity Team | Nature Division | Scottish Government](#)

**31 August 2023**

**From:** Drew Millar (Councillor) <Drew.Millar.cllr@highland.gov.uk>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 31, 2023 11:47 AM

**To:** National Parks <NationalParks@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Scotlands £rd National Park

To Whom it May Concern,

Following a recent meeting of elected members of Ward 10 Eilean A' Cheo Highland Council and on behalf of the members for the ward, I would like to register our interest in becoming a new National Park and notify you that we are considering submitting a nomination.

We have a clearly defined boundary within the Local Authority and have a diverse and unique landscape and an important marine environment that are home to many of Scotland's most important species. A National Park in this area could make a substantial and valuable contribution to delivering net zero and supporting nature recovery.

Skye in particular is the most visited destination in Scotland after Edinburgh and we believe being a National Park could be a major tool in our attempts to manage visitor numbers.

Happy to give further comments as and when required,

Regards,

Drew

Councillor Drew Millar  
Highland Council Ward 10  
Chair North PAC  
Vice Chair Education  
[redacted – personal information]

**22 August 2023**

**From:** [redacted – personal information]@highland.gov.uk>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 22, 2023 9:55 AM

**To:** National Parks <NationalParks@gov.scot>

**Subject:** New National Parks in Scotland Appraisal Framework HIGHLAND COUNCIL FINAL RESPONSE

Dear [redacted – personal information]/ [redacted – personal information],

Thank you again for the extension to the recent consultation to allow our Members to consider the officer response. Members discussed the consultation and our submitted response at the Economy and Infrastructure Committee on 17 August 2023. Members were keen to add weight to the importance of visitor management at this and future stages of the process, and would highlight that Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park are a good example of how visitor pressures have been managed successfully.

Otherwise, I can confirm that Highland Council Members have approved the submitted draft response and have nothing further to add. Please now consider this the final and official Council consultation response.

Many thanks

[redacted – personal information]

[redacted – personal information] | Environment Team Leader | Infrastructure,  
Environment & Economy | Highland Council