

**PE1556/J**

Woodland Trust Scotland Letter of 28 August 2015

Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee  
Room T3.40  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP  
([petitions@scottishparliament.uk](mailto:petitions@scottishparliament.uk))

28th August 2015

Dear Ms Fergusson,

**PE01556: A National Parks Strategy for Scotland**

Woodland Trust Scotland would like to take this opportunity to submit to the Public Petitions Committee our support for petition PE01556.

In short, we do not consider it unreasonable for the Scottish Government to have a strategy for the creation of new National Parks, especially in the light of the unfulfilled SNP Manifesto pledge from 2011 which promised to “work with communities to explore the creation of new National Parks.”

As the issue of land use becomes ever more relevant in Scotland it is important that proper strategic planning and management are able to be carried out, especially regarding the issue of native woodland which still makes up less than a quarter of all Scotland’s forest. This sort of strategic approach can already be seen in the existing Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, and Cairngorms National Park, where the contribution of woodland and forestry to the nature and character of the National Parks is already recognised, as are the benefits which they bring to local communities, economies, recreation and tourism and the natural and cultural heritage of the Park areas.

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the Committee’s debate on this petition, which we would urge them to support.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Evans,  
Director