PE1751/A

Cairngorms National Park Authority submission of 31 October

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 Section 12 currently allows byelaws to be undertaken by any Access Authority that can be used to restrict access rights in certain circumstances as listed in the Act. Paragraph 8 of Schedule 2 to the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 also allows National Park Authorities to make byelaws that can restrict access rights in certain circumstances as listed in the Act. This is the mechanism used for the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Camping Management Byelaws 2017.

Byelaws can only be put in place through public consultation and with agreement by Scottish Government. This provides for local engagement and national oversight. It is not obvious to us why a further piece of legislation is needed when the current Land Reform Act provides an appropriate mechanism.

Finally, it is worth noting that any move to restrict access rights through a byelaw by an Authority must be done based on a long term evidence base of issues arising from 'wild' or 'roadside' camping and the solution must be relevant to the problem to be tackled.