



Roseanna Cunningham MSP
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Dear Minister

National Park Strategy Group

We at LINK were much encouraged by the cross-party support in the debate in Parliament on 4 November about the future of national parks in Scotland. The government's decision to set up a Strategy Group to look at, inter alia, the boundaries of the existing national parks and the potential for future national parks across Scotland, is welcomed. We appreciate that the marine and coastal element is likely to stay on hold until such time as the main marine legislation has been approved.

As you know, LINK is the environmental umbrella organisation for a very wide range of environmental interest groups with a membership of almost half a million people in Scotland. Member bodies have a clear interest in seeing the benefits that can come from national park designation extended across the country. To do this in a consistent manner will inevitably require a strategy with consistent criteria so as to be able to prioritise and programme future national parks. This is not in any way to downgrade or ignore wishes of local people, because clearly, to be successful, national parks while designated in the national interest are much more likely to achieve their aims if the local communities involved understand what is being proposed and why, and are fully committed to that.

We feel that we have amongst our membership, people who are capable of making a very positive contribution as members of the Strategy Group and I



wish to offer for LINK to be represented on the Group. I do hope you will take up our offer and if you are minded to do so, I would be happy to put forward some names for your consideration.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian McCall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I'.

Ian McCall
Chair