



THE MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND

The Old Granary
West Mill Street
Perth PH1 5QP
Tel: 01738 493 947
davidg@mcofs.org.uk
www.mcofs.org.uk

The Chief Executive
Cairngorm Mountain Ltd
Cairngorm Ski Area
Aviemore
PH22 1RB

10 November 2011

Dear Sir

Parking Charges at Coire Cas Car Park

The Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCofS) is the national representative body for hill walkers, climbers and ski-mountaineers, with over 11,000 members.

Following concerns expressed by our members, our Board has decided to write this open letter to Cairngorm Mountain Limited (CML) regarding concerns relating to the imposition of charges at the Coire Cas Car Park.

Voluntary Donation Scheme

We understand that the voluntary donation scheme is a trial following which there will be an assessment to determine whether this scheme should continue, or a mandatory charging scheme be implemented. We believe that the visibility of the voluntary donation collection points in the car park is totally inadequate and as a result visitors may be unaware that the donation system is in operation. While we understand that further signposting is planned, this will be essential to allay any suspicions that CML is planning for the voluntary donation scheme system to fail.

Use of Voluntary Donations

We are concerned that the income from voluntary car parking donations will be used solely for CML general maintenance and running costs, as opposed to being applied to environmental work in the National Park. The MCofS believes that car park maintenance and snow clearance of the access road are essential for the viability of CML's skiing, general tourism and funicular business and that these are therefore essential operational costs.

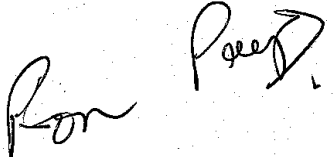
Mandatory Charging

Given the long tradition of free parking at Coire Cas for climbers and hill walkers, the MCofS is fundamentally opposed to the imposition of Mandatory car parking charges and believe that such charges would constitute a charge for access. Furthermore, the MCofS does not understand why you insist on pursuing climbers and hill walkers who are in any case, as assessed by reference your own figures, a tiny minority of the total visitors to Coire Cas.

We have published this letter to our members, and also to the media, as we believe these issues are of concern to all those who enjoy walking and climbing in the northern Cairngorms.

We ask that you consider these points and respond to our concerns.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Payne', is written over a faint, dotted grid background.

Ron Payne
Director - Access and Conservation

Copy to:

The Chief Executive Officer, Cairngorms National Park Authority, 14 The Square,
Grantown on Spey, Moray, PH26 3HG