



# THE MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND

The Old Granary  
West Mill Street  
Perth PH1 5QP  
01738 493 944  
(messages only)  
hebe@mcofs.org.uk  
www.mcofs.org.uk

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Ann Faulds of Dundas & Wilson  
Debbie Flaherty, Consents Unit

Dear Ms Faulds & Ms Flaherty

## SCOPING OPINION REQUEST FOR THE PROPOSED SECTION 36 APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED DRUIM BA WIND FARM ON THE BLAIRMORE ESTATE, NEAR INVERNESS.

### COMMENTS FROM THE MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL of SCOTLAND

The Mountaineering Council of Scotland [MCoS] is supportive of renewable energy strategies, recognising the need to address the problems caused by ensuring sustainable security of energy supply and global warming. Almost all mountaineering and hill-walking clubs in Scotland are affiliated to us and we also have very many Individual Members, giving us a total membership of over 10,000. In addition, our website is widely used throughout the world as well as Britain as a source of information on Scottish hills, the environment, activities, access and matters affecting our sport and interests.

In regard to this Scoping Opinion, we have only a few points to make as our concerns have largely already been addressed by others.

**Cumulative Impact:** We dispute the comment under *Potential cumulative effects* on page 12, believing that in this area there is huge potential for cumulative landscape and visual impact. We note the extent of the proposed Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment to be done and would emphasise the need to take such determinations from a wide range of summits and other important receptor sites in the vicinity, as agreed with Highland Council and SNH.

**Wild Land:** In 8.3.6 it is stated that two WLSAs fall partly within the periphery of the study area. We are concerned about the impact this development would inevitably have on these areas of wild land character.

#### Appendix B.

**Item 10. Transport and Wider Access: Wider Access.** We thoroughly endorse all the points made in this section of the pre-application advice.

#### Item 13. Comments from outside agencies:

SEPA: We endorse the comments made under carbon balance and peat management, disruption to peatlands and environmental management.

SNH: We endorse the pre-application advice and requirements made under the headings Designated Sites, Landscape, Visual Assessment and the suggestions for viewpoints especially elevated viewpoints from adjacent popular hills and mountains where visibility is predicted, Cumulative Landscape Assessment and Access and Community Liaison.

Beryl Leatherland  
For Mountaineering Council of Scotland