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Dear Mr Kearney

2016/0295/DET- Retrospective planning application to retain a ski area access track at Cairngorm Mountain, Glenmore, Aviemore

I am writing to you as the operators of Cairngorm Mountain Limited and separately to Charlotte Wright of HIE as the owner of the land, to reinforce the disappointment of the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) Planning Committee at the need for us to consider a planning application for development undertaken without planning permission.

I am sure that Adam Gough and your team got a sense of members' frustration at the Planning Committee meeting on 27 January where the application was approved. I hope you understand that our frustration was borne from the unnecessary breaches of planning control, the additional work that it caused our staff and the concerns that it caused for members of the public. Such an approach undermines the public's confidence in the planning process and undermines the public credibility of your organisation.

We I do appreciate that you are running a ski resort in some challenging circumstances. I know that since the breaches happened in 2015, your team have worked closely with CNPA staff to achieve the sensible restoration proposals that the Planning Committee approved and have also maintained good liaison on other operations such as the potential removal of redundant infrastructure. You must maintain that approach in future to avoid any further problems.

I would also urge you to develop some simple, best-practice management standards for your operations that you can consistently apply to your own works or those undertaken by contractors. By doing so, and by being seen to clearly apply them, you would be able to defend your operations more effectively and would build confidence in both the public and the public agencies you work with.

Yours sincerely

ELEANOR MACKINTOSH
Planning Committee Convener

cc Adam Gough, Senior Vice President, Resorts & Lodges Europe, Natural Retreats
Charlotte Wright, Interim Chief Executive, HIE