



**INFORMATION NOTE  
ON STATUTORY  
REPORTER  
PROCESS**

# Information note for nominating groups

## What is the statutory reporter process and who will take on this role?

Reporting work is part of the statutory (legal) process for the designation of a new National Park in Scotland. As outlined in the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 (“the 2000 Act”), the statutory process begins with a formal Ministerial proposal that a National Park should be established (a ‘National Park proposal’) and a ‘reporter’ appointed.

The reporter’s role and who can take on the role of reporter is set out in the National Parks legislation. NatureScot undertook the reporting role when Scotland’s first two National Parks were established in Loch Lomond & the Trossachs and Cairngorms. It is expected that NatureScot will take on the reporter role for the designation of our next National Park.

Scottish Ministers are expected to decide and announce which area or areas will become a ‘National Park proposal’ this summer, following the appraisal of all nominations submitted to Scottish Government by 29 February.

## What does the reporter do?

On receipt of the National Park proposal, the reporter must:

- send a copy of the proposal to every local authority any part of whose area is within the area to which the proposal relates;
- determine the period (which must be at least 12 weeks) for which the copy proposal and requirement from Scottish Ministers to carry out the report are to be made available for public inspection and notify every such authority of that period;
- publicise the proposal in a manner the reporter thinks fit;
- consult every local authority and community council any part of whose area is within the area to which the proposal relates; such persons that appear to the reporter to be representative of the interests of those who live, work or carry on business in the area to which the proposal relates, and such other persons as the reporter thinks fit.

The reporter’s role is to provide a report to Scottish Ministers on the National Park proposal. When preparing the report, the reporter:

- must consider whether the below conditions are satisfied in relation to the proposed area
  - that the area is of outstanding national importance due to its natural heritage or the combination of its natural and cultural heritage;
  - that the area has a distinctive character and coherent identity; and
  - that designating the area as a National Park would meet the special needs of the area);
- must have regard to the National Park aims,
- must take into account any views and comments on the National Park proposal expressed as part of the public inspection and consultation,
- may have regard to such other matters as the reporter considers relevant including, in particular, administrative boundaries and geographical considerations.

## How long does the reporter process take?

The reporter process is anticipated to take around 9 months. It involves:

- (i) extensive engagement with stakeholders and local communities in the area regarding the proposal. (This will build on the work that has previously been carried out by the nominating group and will be informed by the proposal that has been submitted);
- (ii) a formal period of consultation; and

(iii) the development and finalisation of the reporter's advice which will take account of the engagement and consultation.

The reporter will work with other public bodies with expertise in relevant areas such as cultural heritage, visitor management, community development and farming and crofting.

### **What should the reporter's advice include?**

The reporter's advice should include the following:

- the area which it is proposed should be designated as a National Park;
- the desirability of designating the area in question (with or without modifications) as a National Park;
- the proposed functions the National Park authority for the Park should exercise;
- the likely annual costs and capital expenses of the authority in exercising its functions;
- such other matters relating to the proposal as the Scottish Ministers may specify; and
- any other matters that the reporter considers relevant.

### **What consultation took place during previous reporter processes?**

Examples of engagement and consultation activities that took place during the reporter process for the establishment of Loch Lomond & the Trossachs and Cairngorms National Parks included:

**Information:** website, newsletters, Q&A material, displays at public venues, press releases and media coverage.

#### **Engagement:**

- Stakeholder meetings and events (including with community councils, farmers and land managers, businesses, environment and conservation organisations, tourism and recreation representatives);
- Engagement with local authorities;
- Visits to primary and secondary schools, questionnaires and discussions with young people;
- Drop in surgeries;
- Public meetings.

#### **Consultation:**

- Consultation document;
- Summary leaflet and comment form;
- Street surveys;
- Meetings/events.

The consultation and stakeholder engagement that takes place during the statutory reporter process for any new National Park will need to take into consideration local circumstances and should build on the previous engagement work that has been undertaken during the development of the nomination.