

T: 0131-244 6021
E: dgcorporate@gov.scot

Ian Bruce
Ethical Standards Commissioner
Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life
in Scotland

By Email

16 April 2024

Dear Mr Bruce

REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF THE CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY (CNPA)

I am writing in response to your letter of 21 March 2024 to gratefully acknowledge the work of your office in concluding this complaint. I understand in the majority of cases, we ensure our processes to enable ministerial decisions on succession planning for public appointments are handled timeously and effectively. However, it is disappointing that on this occasion we fell so far short of these standards.

Nevertheless, I am satisfied that all efforts were made to achieve a frontline resolution with the complainer, and an appropriate apology was made last year in regard to shortcomings. I very much welcome your initiative to work with our teams to ensure that procedures in line with the code continue to be followed consistently, and more importantly, how we might best jointly prevent circumstances like this arising again in future.

The Scottish Government is fully committed to openness and transparency. I understand there you were considerably frustrated in the process of your investigation, for which I apologise, and we are reviewing the handling of such matters for the future. We recognise that, when meeting our obligations under the Civil Service Code in respect of disclosure of official information, it is important that this must be done in a way that does not delay your work, in the way I understand it has on this occasion.

Yours sincerely



Lesley Fraser
DG Corporate