



PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01655

Name of petitioner

Christine Metcalfe on behalf of Avich & Kilchrenan Community Council

Petition title

Scotland's National Scenic Areas

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to review the process for designation of National Scenic Areas (NSAs) and consider increasing the number of NSAs in Scotland to protect the natural landscape and support the tourism sector.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

I contacted the Scottish Government in December 2016.

Petition background information

Currently, there are 40 NSAs across Scotland. In 2015, in relation to petition PE1564, the Scottish Government indicated that it had no plans to designate any further NSAs.

It is becoming clear that due to pressures from various quarters, including those of the renewable energy industry (both NPF3 and the Scottish Planning Policy (SPP p.43) mention NSAs in the context of windfarm development), some areas deserving of the title of National Scenic Area have not yet been recognised as being in urgent need of this. One such location, for example, is Loch Awe in Argyll.

The loch has a distinct and unique regional character, and provides an increasingly rare, quieter experience in an unspoilt landscape. It is extremely narrow, and is therefore vulnerable to significant detrimental impacts from any large renewable energy or infrastructure projects unavoidably visible to both sides of the loch.

These potential impacts on the tranquility and beauty of the area will have a subsequent impact on the locally dependent tourism sector and upon the natural wildlife in the Loch Awe area (which includes the Glen Etive and Glen Fyne Golden Eagle Special Protection Area).

While I have used Loch Awe as a specific example, the impacts of large infrastructure projects might also affect many other areas of Scotland that have their own distinct and unique regional character.

Unique web address

Related information for petition

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

0

Closing date for collecting signatures online

07 / 06 / 2017

Comments to stimulate online discussion

Are you concerned that some of Scotland's most beautiful areas are at risk from major infrastructure projects?

Do you agree that reviewing the status of National Scenic Areas, and considering additions to the list, is a reasonable approach to protect our natural environment?

Do you have any other suggestions for how we protect Scotland's unique and natural landscapes?

Do you know other areas that could be considered for designation as NSAs?