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Community Asset Transfer Manager  
**Rebecca Carr**

3 November 2017

Dear Vicky

## **Community Asset Transfer Scheme for the National Forest Estate Gamescleuch Forest & the Ettrick Marshes Decision Notice**

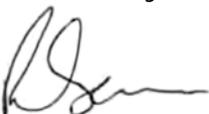
Please find enclosed the decision notice setting out Forest Enterprise Scotland's decision to refuse Ettrick & Yarrow Community Development Company's (EYCDC) asset transfer request for Gamescleuch Forest and the Ettrick Marshes.

I know this decision will be extremely disappointing for EYCDC and the decision was only made after a thorough evaluation process, taking into account the recommendation of the CATS Evaluation Panel. I appreciate you will have further questions about the decision and would emphasise that the reasons identified through the evaluation, as set out in the decision letter, are all issues that could be addressed.

Forest Enterprise Scotland would be supportive of further work by EYCDC to develop the proposals. Although under the legislation, Forest Enterprise Scotland can refuse to consider a broadly similar request for 2 years, in this case we would be happy to consider a revised request, if that addressed the impacts identified by the evaluation.

I would therefore propose the next step is to arrange a meeting to answer your questions about the decision, to discuss how we can work with EYCDC to support the community's ambitions while taking the steps we need to take to make the boardwalks safe, and to facilitate discussion to explore all options to support the community's ambitions, potentially working with public private sector partners partnerships in the local and/or forestry sectors.

Yours sincerely



**Rebecca Carr**  
Community Asset Transfer Manager

cc Sir Michael Strang-Steel, Chair, EYCDC