

[REDACTED]

15/12/18

REF: Muirdrochwood Community Asset Transfer

Dear M/s Carr,

Firstly I wish to state that I oppose the transfer of the Forestry Commission's land at Muirdrochwood to the proposed Carsphairn Community Woodland Co.

I am a member of the [REDACTED] family who sold Marscalloch farm to the Forestry Commission originally, and at the time of construction of the Galloway Hydro Scheme also owned Carminnows farm, along with our current farm of Knockgray. On the flooding of Kendoon Loch my family retained sporting and grazing rights on the Carminnows side of the loch. Permission was granted to my family to erect a boathouse by the Power Company and to establish The Carsphairn Angling Club in 1937, which still exists today as a well managed thriving association. I am at present the Honourary President.

I list some of my concerns as follows:

The proposal would interfere with the Angling Club's rights of fishing on Kendoon loch. i.e. the policing of poaching would be impossible.

There is a large area of larch disease within the existing forest which requires ongoing management to prevent it spreading to the private woodlands in the Carsphairn area.

It is a commercial forestry block of too large an area for the production of firewood. Firewood production is more suited to the coppicing of hardwoods and requires to be seasoned before it can be burnt.

On 28/5/1968 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] took up the Lease of the shootings on Marscalloch and following him, I did also. One of the main reasons I did not renew my Lease was that the Forestry Commission required proof of adequate culling and control of the deer population in the forest. I assume one reason being that the Deer Commission acquired more powers and became more pro-active in wishing to control the increasing deer population in Scotland. I therefore question whether the above proposal fits in with this management issue.

I have concerns also for the long-term outlook: my family have been landowners in Carsphairn for 314 years. If the current enthusiastic proposers sell up and move away from the area, would there be anyone willing to carry on with this massive investment?

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.