

**PE1678/J**

Argyll & Bute Council submission of 27 February 2018

I refer to your letter dated 5 February 2018 regarding the Consideration of Petition PE1678 and would respond as follows to the questions raised:

***Question: the number of rangers employed in your local authority area, including in any ALEO's***

**Answer:** Argyll & Bute Council has never had a Countryside Ranger Service although there are a small number of rangers employed in the area by the following organisations usually with financial assistance from SNH;

- On Mull & Iona the Mull & Iona Community Trust employ 2 rangers in partnership with the National Trust for Scotland & Forestry Commission Scotland
- On Islay, Oronsay and Tiree the RSPB employs a number of Reserve Managers and Wardens
- The Forestry Commission Scotland also employs a small number of staff who fulfil some of the functions of a Ranger Service
- At one time the Black Mount Estate near Bridge of Orchy and the Mount Stuart Estate on the Isle of Bute both employed rangers

***Question: whether your local authority has a three-to-five year plan for ranger services which it could provide to the committee***

**Answer:** Argyll & Bute Council does not at present have any intention to establish a Ranger Service.