

## PE1678/DD

Scottish Natural Heritage submission of 20 August 2019

### 1) Progress with review

We are working on a refresh of the national statement [Rangers in Scotland](#) and the development of a new training and development programme for rangers. Future meetings of the Ranger Development Partnership and the Ranger Managers Forum are being scheduled as part of this process with plans for a new statement to be signed off, by the partners to the existing statement, in early 2020. COSLA are supporting this work, and in May 2019 we presented a well-received paper to their Economy and Environment Board.

### 2) SNH grant support to ranger services

In 2018/19 SNH provided £208k of grant aid to 15 ranger services, which equates to support for just over 18 full-time equivalent (FTE). These can be broadly categorised into community based ranger services and private estate ranger services. Table 1 provides an overview.

*Table 1 Ranger Services Supported by SNH Grant Support at August 2019*

Community Ranger Service	Grant support from SNH FY 18/19	Private Ranger Service	Grant support from SNH FY 18/19
Foula	8.5k for 0.75 FTE	Finlaystone	24k pa for 2 FTE
Fair Isle	6k pa for 1 FTE	Hopetoun House	12k pa for 1.5 FTE
Sanday	6k pa for 0.58 FTE	Buccleuch Bowhill	18k pa for 1.5 FTE
Rum	6k pa for 0.5 FTE	Buccleuch Drumlanrig	24k pa for 2 FTE
Tiree	12k for 1 FTE	Kelburn	24k pa for 2 FTE
Mull and Iona	24k for 2 FTE	Hoddum & Kinmount	12k pa for 1 FTE
North Harris	12k pa for 1 FTE	Penicuik HPT	18k pa for 1.5 FTE
Knoydart	12k pa for 1 FTE		

Our current funding arrangement with these ranger services runs until the end of September 2019, and we are pleased to say that new funding offers are currently being issued to offer another 2 years of grant support.

This continuing grant support to these services for the next two years reflects the value that we place on the work that they carry out. Nevertheless, we are having to make budgetary savings and from 2020 we are changing to grant aiding a maximum

of 1 FTE per ranger service. Many of the services we fund are unaffected by this change.

Looking ahead, it is possible that we may not be able to afford to continue to grant aid these ranger services beyond this new two year period. We expect to make decisions on this during 2020/21 as we review the implications of the new spending review.