

20<sup>th</sup> March 2015

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Dear Sir/Madam

**DPEA appeal reference number: PPA-270-2120**  
**Further written representation from Ramblers Scotland, Beinn Mhor Wind Farm - Land at Guisachan, Tomich, Cannich. Highland Council planning reference number; 14/01731/FUL**

Ramblers Scotland wishes to maintain its objection to the above application, as per our letter of 20<sup>th</sup> October which sets out the reason for this position. We are now writing to draw your attention to new information which we believe adds weight to our objection. This was made on the basis of the significant impact this development would have on an area of considerable natural beauty, which is of national importance for recreation and tourism.

Scottish Natural Heritage's updated Natural Heritage Indicator N3 Visual influence of built development, published Nov 2014, Table 1, illustrates that from 2008 to 2013 the percentage of Scotland from where wind turbines could be seen has risen from 19.9% to 45.9%, when looking at operational wind farms. (<http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/A1064015.pdf>). We believe this is of particular significance given the information given in the Environmental Statement Non Technical Summary, section 7.6 which quotes Scottish Government research on potential impact of onshore windfarms on tourism. This says that "75% of tourists considered wind farms to have a beneficial or neutral effect on the landscape, whereas 25% felt windfarms had a negative impact on landscape. No significant effects are predicted on wider business interests related to tourism or recreation." (Riddlington et al, Glasgow Caledonian University (2008) The economic impact of wind farms on Scottish Tourism).

Since this tourism study was published in 2008, it can be surmised that research would have been undertaken during the previous years and yet from the SNH indicator it is clear that the area of Scotland where turbines are visible has more than doubled since then. We suggest therefore that this assertion could be seen as no longer valid.

Yours faithfully

Helen Todd  
Campaigns & Policy Manager

President: Dr Andrew Murray  
Convener: David Thomson  
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