Dear Sir

Land Reform Bill (Scotland) 2015 – Stage 1 comments

Stirling Council would like to offer the following comments in regard to Part 9 Access Rights of the new Bill.

The Council is supportive of Part 9 as a whole and would request an alteration to 20C.

This section deals with ad-hoc changes to the core paths plan that occur between larger reviews. This is a very welcome alteration to the existing Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. However, as it currently reads, this section could be interpreted to mean that only one single amendment can be made to the plan. Any second or subsequent change would need to be dealt with through the full core path plan review process.

The Council believe that this section was included to allow changes to core paths because of some local need for example to allow more effective land management or due to riverbank erosion requiring a path to be moved back. Clearly this could happen more than once between full core path plan reviews and to allow it to happen once, but not a second time would appear nonsensical.

To remedy this the Council request an alteration to line 34, page 54 of Section 20C. Replace “a” with “any” at the end of the sentence.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this Bill and if you require any further assistance please contact the author using the details above.

Yours faithfully

Richard Barron
Senior Access Officer