

Ref: AS/lr



Mairi Gougeon MSP
Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Sent by email

15 July 2020

Dear Minister,

Littering and environmental damage

You may be aware that recently, 21 people were charged with offences relating to local bylaws in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. This was from a series of incidents that saw camping equipment and other materials littered across woodland areas, and environmental damage that included fire damage to trees.

This behaviour was rightly condemned by the National Park, as well as by the First Minister during First Minister's Questions last week.

I have since been in touch with Police Scotland, the National Park, and the Justice Secretary, asking what further measures can be brought in to impose harsher penalties for those who cause environmental damage to our countryside through littering.

I would welcome any comments you may have on the possibility of a public awareness campaign on this issue. Scotland proudly gives its citizens the right of responsible access to our spectacular countryside, but this responsibility must be taken seriously, otherwise behaviour such as littering risks causing great damage to our environment and communities.

I have recently hosted a number of online surgeries with farmers, community council and others, and I know that any further efforts from authorities to tackle this ongoing problem would be most welcome.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alyn Smith'.

Alyn Smith MP
Member of the Westminster Parliament for Stirling Constituency
SNP Shadow Foreign Secretary