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Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

28 July 2025

Dear Edward,

Thank you for your follow-up e-mail of the 09 July 2025 regarding the acquisition of Glen Prosen Estate.

The strategic importance for the Scottish Government acquiring land at Glen Prosen was to provide an exemplar of integrated land management in partnership with neighbouring land managers including Scottish Water, NatureScot, and Cairngorms National Park.

This has created a near contiguous area of public land of 10,500 hectares in the Angus Glens (and the majority within the Cairngorms National Park), which provides opportunity for joint working towards shared outcomes to deliver on the Scottish Government's objectives for people's well-being, nature recovery, and climate resilience.

Along with the strong focus on harnessing the opportunities in the Angus Glens to help drive forward the Scottish Government's ambitions to halt nature loss by 2030 and restoring biodiversity by 2045, develop climate adaptation measures, the acquisition of the Glen Prosen will also support new jobs.

These include the recruitment of five full-time employees for work across the Angus Glens. Additionally, a lease is on the point of being signed with a local distillery which intends to employ six staff based in the Glen.

These job opportunities have increased the number of people working in the Angus Glens when compared to the previous employment provided on the estate.

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FLS has issued terms for a field studies centre and mountaineering club, both of which will also bring more people and jobs to the glen. FLS are also exploring the prospect for modern apprenticeships based at Glen Prosen to encourage the development of skills in this area.

Delivering FLS's ambitious land management plan (LMP) will also create work in the Glen, for example with local contractors. There are plans for extensive new native woodland creation, peatland, and river restoration, which will help recover wildlife, lock up carbon and create landscapes that people can enjoy and benefit from. Thorough consultation with local communities and the wider public has helped to shape these plans.

Together with supporting the local economy through facilitating business development and jobs and providing opportunities for local community organisations to base themselves in the Glen, FLS has undertaken extensive survey work to better understand the site. Deer numbers have been substantially reduced to enable habitat recovery, and, they have undertaken fencing along the river to enable tree planting later this year under a Nature Restoration Fund programme.

The Land Management Plan will be submitted to Scottish Forestry for final approvals this autumn following an Environmental Impact Assessment screening process.

The FLS team for the Angus Glens would be more than happy to host a visit to Glen Prosen to explain their approach and its benefits in more detail to you and/or the Committee.

Yours sincerely,



MAIRI GOUGEON