



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

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Dear Mr Thomson

Thank you for your letter of 22 August to Patricia Ferguson, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport, about future development opportunities for mountain biking at Carron Valley. Your letter has been passed to me for reply.

The Minister has asked me to say that she enjoyed her visit to Carron Valley and did indeed gain a good understanding of your project and your thoughts for the future. She is also pleased that you are working closely with your colleagues in the Carron Valley Partnership to examine recreation opportunities in the area.

As you are aware, Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) has a remit to provide and manage recreation and tourism opportunities on the national forest estate. The development of mountain biking trails and facilities is one element of its delivery, bringing local, regional and national benefits.

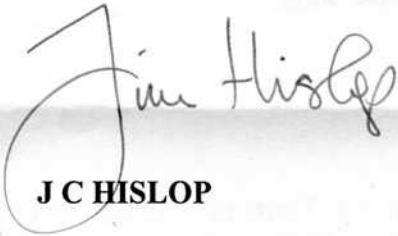
FCS is the single largest provider of purpose-built mountain bike trails in Scotland with a total length equivalent to the distance between Glasgow and London. £4m has been invested in the past four years in developing mountain bike facilities on the national forest estate, in areas ranging from Morayshire to West Argyll to the Tweed Valley and including those at Carron Valley. FCS has recently undertaken market research and feasibility studies, which will inform the preparation of a mountain bike and cycling strategy for the national forest estate. With regard to the particular issue you have raised, I would suggest that you take up these issues directly with FC Scotland. Alan Stevenson, who, you may recall, accompanied the Minister on her visit to Carron Valley, is Forestry Commission Scotland's senior officer with responsibility for mountainbiking matters on the national forest estate. Alan would be pleased to meet with you to discuss your views and you may be aware that he has been overseeing the consultation process for a national strategy for forest and mountainbiking. You should contact him on 01463 232811 to arrange a mutually convenient date for a meeting.



As you mentioned in your letter, Scotland gained 'global superstar' status from the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA). In according Scotland this status, IMBA acknowledged the investments made by the Forestry Commission. It is with this in mind and the desire to build on Scotland's growing reputation that the Minister hopes to meet with the Forestry Minister soon to discuss support for mountain biking on the forest estate.

I have been asked to convey the Ministers best wishes for the future success of the mountain bike trails at Carron Valley.

Yours sincerely



J C HISLOP

The Ministry has noted the success of the Carron Valley trails and the support of the Forestry Commission. It is also pleased that you are a member of the Carron Valley Mountain Biking Association and we will continue to work with you to ensure the trails are well maintained and safe for all users.

The Forestry Commission (FC) has a remit to provide and manage the forest estate for the benefit of the nation. The development of mountain biking trails is one of our priorities and we are pleased to support the Carron Valley trails. We will continue to work with you to ensure the trails are well maintained and safe for all users.

It is a pleasure to hear that you are a member of the Carron Valley Mountain Biking Association and we will continue to work with you to ensure the trails are well maintained and safe for all users. We will continue to work with you to ensure the trails are well maintained and safe for all users.

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