

Minister for the Environment
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

11th February 2009

Dear Ms Cunningham,

Forestry Commission Scotland

Congratulations on your appointment to the role of Environment Minister. You may be aware that I wrote to the former Minister Michael Russell on 28th November 2008, requesting an independent investigation into allegations of serial misconduct involving senior officers in Forestry Commission Scotland. These allegations were evidenced in significant detail with correspondence dating back several years.

Some two months later I received a letter from Mr Hugh Insley, Chief Executive of Forestry Commission Scotland. It appears the Minister chose not to acknowledge my letter and instead instructed the accused party to respond on his behalf. Given your background in the legal profession I am sure that you will find this approach highly irregular and fundamentally flawed in respect of any complaints process.

I intended to send the attached letter to Mr Russell but he has already moved on. This does, however, present an opportunity for a fresh perspective on the situation. I hope that you will examine the relevant correspondence and instruct a full investigation into the allegations contained within.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours Sincerely,

David Russell
Chairman
Carron Valley Development Group