

**FORESTRY COMMISSION**

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Mr J R Mackay
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Please reply to the Conservator
Your reference

Our reference

Date 31 August 1990

Dear Sir

INFORMATION LEAFLET ON BENNACHIE AND WEST GORDON WAY

I refer to your letter of 5 August where you bring to my attention a number of points relating to the processing of the Bennachie and West Gordon Way Information Leaflet. I am sorry to learn you find this disappointing and annoying to yourself in particular.

The Forestry Commission has always enjoyed and appreciated the efforts of the Bailies as a group and the contribution of its individual members.

The confidence the Forestry Commission has in this relationship (built up over the past year) is reflected in the times we take on board the Bailies' suggestions, and when the Forestry Commission make approaches for assistance, advice, etc. It would be sad to see the Bailies withdrawing from this co-operation as I am sure you realise the loss would be to the Bennachie Hill and the people who enjoy its many features.

The publication of the leaflet passes through a number of specialised Forestry Commission departments. It is the intention to produce a quality leaflet at a reasonable cost, as like all organisations there are financial limits. The reason for delay is that these departments become involved in many projects so imposing increased workloads. This year has been a particularly busy period. The departments are not restricted to recreational publications but become involved in the broad spectrum of the management of the Forestry Commission Estate and its authority work. It is still the intention to publish the leaflet as soon as possible and the best estimate I can give at the moment is September. I realise this is not to the expectations of the Bailies, but perhaps the final remaining section of the West Gordon Way will be agreed by them, at least in principle, and so the information will be more accurate.

The present production of 5,000 leaflets is for an estimated 3 years' supply when there will then be a revision and update.

I am sorry you have been put to so much trouble but would confirm that the Forestry Commission will pursue the good relations it has with the Bailies and its individual members.

Yours faithfully

F. M. Muggridge
F M Muggridge
for Conservator