



Scottish Natural Heritage

All of nature for all of Scotland

Ms Katherine Christie
Scottish Government Health Directorate
Reshaping Care and Mental Health Division
Mental Health Service Delivery Unit
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By email to: Katherine.christie@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

31 January 2012
Our Ref: PF058-11/12.

Dear Ms Christie

Consultation on the draft Mental Health Strategy for Scotland: 2011-15

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) is a non-departmental public body, funded by Scottish Government and responsible through Ministers to the Scottish Parliament. Our purposes are to promote the care and improvement, responsible enjoyment, greater understanding and appreciation, and sustainable use of the natural heritage.

While we are not a health agency, we have a growing interest in the role of Scotland's nature and landscapes in supporting health outcomes. In 2009, we published our own statement on *Developing the contribution of the natural heritage to a healthier Scotland*. We therefore very much welcome the opportunity to comment on the development of a Mental Health Strategy for Scotland.

SNH is providing an organisational response to this consultation, but we are also part of the 'Green Exercise Partnership' with Forestry Commission Scotland and NHS Health Scotland which has been established to promote greater use of the outdoors to improve health and quality of life for people in Scotland. You will also receive a combined response from NHS Health Scotland on behalf of the Green Exercise Partnership.

If you would like any further information from SNH on this topic, in the first instance please contact: Bridget Flinton at the address above or email – bridget.finton@snh.gov.uk tel. – 01738 458565.

Yours sincerely

Pete Rawcliffe
People & Places Unit Manager



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