

PE2089/F: Stop More National Parks in Scotland National Farmer's Union Scotland written submission, 03 December 2024

I write on behalf of NFU Scotland to highlight inaccurate information that was provided to the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee evidence session on Wednesday 13 November. The Committee was taking evidence on PE2089: Stop More National Parks in Scotland from Eileen Stewart, Deputy Director of Nature and Climate Change at NatureScot.

During this session, at 09:47, in response to a question from Maurice Golden about our public survey, Eileen Stewart stated that "The NFUS did a survey a short while ago and collected about 1,900 responses. I understand that 300 of the respondents were based in the Galloway area".

This is factually incorrect. The survey NFUS undertook was a public survey that was open from February-September 2024 and received almost 2,000 responses. In this survey, the question on the connection to Galloway allowed a person to select as many boxes as were applicable to an individual. Of the total number of people who responded:

- 640 selected Farmer in Galloway.
- 1,140 selected Galloway Resident.
- 354 selected Own/Manage a business in Galloway
- 214 selected Other.
- 56 skipped the question.

As you can see, the statistic used by Ms Stewart is completely inaccurate, as well as being misleading. This response has the potential to undermine our claims that farmers, and the general public in Galloway, are opposed to this proposal. The results from this survey, as our Regional Manager for Dumfries & Galloway provided to the Committee on Wednesday 30 October, were that 73% of respondents opposed the proposals.