



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Douglas Ross MP
Member of Parliament for Moray

Roddy Burns
Chief Executive
Moray Council
By email: complaintsadmin@moray.gov.uk

16th October 2018

Our ref: DR/SN/1184

Dear Roddy

Travellers on [REDACTED], Forres

It has been brought to my attention that the [REDACTED] site was broken into at the weekend and about a dozen travellers' caravans are now there, camping illegally.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

I would be grateful if you could investigate this and advise me on the action the council proposes to take to move the travellers from this site.

I look forward to your reply.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

DOUGLAS ROSS MP



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Jim Grant

Head of Development Services

Moray Council

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Telephone: 01343 563262 Fax: 01343 563990

email: jim.grant@moray.gov.uk

Website: www.moray.gov.uk

Sent via email to –

Your reference:

Our reference: [REDACTED]

19-017.docx

29 July 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Wild Camping in [REDACTED]

I refer to your recent email regarding the above and would comment as follows. While wild camping is permitted by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, this right of access has to be exercised responsibly and does not extend to the use of motorised vehicles. In the case of a collection of motorhomes, for example at Findhorn, we would consider this to be the use of an unlicensed Caravan Site rather than wild camping. Before a Caravan Site Licence can be issued the site would have to have Planning Permission. The Development Management Team are currently investigating to determine appropriate action.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

Jim Grant
Head of Development Services

c.c. Richard Lochhead MSP
Douglas Ross MP

From: MACKENZIE, Douglas <MACKENZIED@parliament.uk>
Sent: 13 May 2020 16:04
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Unauthorised Encampment Forres Enterprise Park

Our ref: DR/DM/4023

Dear Roddy

I was asked for a comment by the Press in relation to the action taken so far by all parties concerned in relation to the unauthorised gypsy travellers site at Forres Business Park. I was surprised to note that the Moray Council quote said : *"There is no Moray Council involvement as it's not council land."*

According to the Moray Council protocol for dealing with gypsy travellers, whether it is on Council land or private land, the Unauthorised Encampment Officer (UEO) is supposed to attend and be a link between the other agencies.

Can you advise why this did not happen on this occasion?

Kind regards

Douglas



Douglas Ross MP

Member of Parliament for Moray

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Info

From: Richard Anderson
Sent: 14 May 2020 14:52
To: douglas.ross.mp@parliament.uk
Cc: Roddy Burns; [REDACTED]
Subject: Gypsy/Travellers - HIE Forres

Douglas

Roddy has asked me to respond to your latest email with regards to the G/T encampment at HIE Forres.

I note the quote via the Press states that "There is no Moray Council involvement as it's not council land". I believe this to be an error in how this has been reported. The Council continues to monitor the encampment in line with our Unauthorised Encampments Policy. I think the quote is taken out of context – albeit I did not respond to this enquiry last week as I was on annual leave.

The main aspect where the Council will have no involvement will be in the removal of the Encampment due to it being located on private land. The Scottish Government has recently sent out guidance with regards to Gypsy/Travellers and how local authorities must support them during the COVID 19 emergency. The guidance supports a position that unauthorised encampments should not be moved and that local authorities should recognise the additional needs they may have at this time due to their domestic and living arrangements. Our Unauthorised Encampments Officer continues to monitor this.

[REDACTED]

Please be assured, our Unauthorised Encampments Officer will continue to visit the encampment and we are more than happy to offer HIE any advice should this be requested of us.

Richard

Richard Anderson | Head of Housing and Property Services | Economy, Environment and Finance

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