

South-West Scotland Regenerative Farming Network (182 members)

On behalf of the South West Scotland Regenerative Farming Network, I'm happy to offer this statement of support for the Galloway National Park.

As a network of forward thinking farmers, focused on nature friendly and agroecological approaches, we can see how a National Park would benefit biodiversity and future farming systems. We welcome the principles of nature conservation and recognise how this can benefit our farmed landscapes.

With best wishes

Abi Mordin

Organiser - South West Scotland Regenerative Farming Network

National Farmers Union of Scotland (regional membership undisclosed)

NFUS in Galloway does not support a National Park. Our members have significant concerns that the resulting bureaucracy will impact on the management of our businesses which are focussed on the production of food by economically successful businesses.

The prospect of National Park status brings an uncertainty and this will impact on current and future business decisions. These concerns include but not exclusively around changes to planning policy which potentially could restrict growth and adaptation of the agricultural sector to meet food supply and the route to Net Zero. There are many challenges ahead to address the loss of biodiversity and the climate crisis, to comply with the requirements of conditionality in farm support payments, and to meet an increasingly challenging regulatory regime. Additional burdens will be imposed if the area is a National Park, and these will damage our ability to produce food.

NFUS recognises the arguments for a National Park based on the wider economy and to highlight the attractions of the area, but we cannot support any bid in Galloway.

Colin Ferguson NFUS Regional Chair

Milk Suppliers of Galloway (110 members across Dumfries and Galloway)

Subject: Galloway National Park Concerns

Message: I am writing to you as the Chair of the Milk Suppliers Association, representing the interests and concerns of 110 dairy farmers in and around the Galloway area. We have become aware of the proposal to establish a national park in our region, and I wish to express our collective opposition to this initiative.

Our primary concern revolves around the potential impact such a designation would have on our dairy farming operations, which are the lifeblood of our community and essential to the local economy. The establishment of a national park in Dumfries & Galloway and South Ayrshire poses a significant threat

to our livelihoods by potentially restricting land use and access. Many of our farms operate on land that could fall within the proposed park boundaries, directly impacting our ability to graze cattle, access water resources, and manage our land effectively for dairy production.

Moreover, the introduction of strict environmental regulations typically associated with national parks could severely limit our agricultural practices. These regulations might not only reduce our productive capacity but also increase our operating costs due to compliance requirements. In a market where profit margins are already thin, this could prove unsustainable for many of our members, potentially leading to the closure of long-standing family farms and the loss of valuable local employment.

Additionally, while we understand and support the need for conservation and environmental protection, we believe that there are ways to achieve these goals without compromising the agricultural heritage and economic stability of the Dumfries & Galloway and South Ayrshire regions. We advocate for a balanced approach that considers the needs of all stakeholders, including the dairy farming community, and encourages collaborative land management practices that benefit both the environment and local industry.

The dairy sector in our milk field has always been a strong advocate for environmental stewardship, implementing sustainable farming practices that contribute to the health of our land and local ecosystems. We are committed to continuing these practices and are open to dialogue about how we can work together to protect our natural surroundings while also ensuring the viability of our agricultural community.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to reconsider the proposal to establish the Galloway national park. Instead, I invite you to engage with us and other local stakeholders in developing alternative solutions that will allow for the preservation of the region's natural beauty and biodiversity without undermining its agricultural potential and economic wellbeing.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We are eager to participate in constructive discussions and to find a path forward that respects and benefits all parties involved.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Rory Christie (MSA Chairman)