

On Sep 26, 2018, at 02:59 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Kim,

Apologies for not getting back to you sooner.

I am sorry but we don't have updated statistics specific to the south side of Loch Ness and we won't have figures of usage on the South Loch Ness Trail until we put in people counters which hopefully we will do next year.

However, **VisitInvernessLochNess would strongly support your application on the basis of:**

- 1) Nationally, the continued growth in demand for campervan holidays in the Highlands is set to continue – over 48% of all campervan holidays in Scotland currently are in the Highlands
- 2) The continued growth in cruise liners using the port of Invergordon and sending more bus tours up the south side of Loch Ness this year. This year there were 92 liners docked at Invergordon bringing 171,000 visitors, up from 71 and 142,000 in 2017
- 3) The potential number of new walkers as a result of linking up of the South Loch Ness Trail with the Great Glen Way and creating the LochNess360 Trail. A recent SNH report estimated that 4500 people per year walk the full length of the Great Glen Way. If even half this number do the LochNess360 per year it is still a substantial increase in numbers
- 4) The growth of Inverness airport is set to continue bringing more visitors to the area. It is now one of the fastest growing airports, if not the fastest in Scotland. In July 2017 it had its busiest month in its history with 93,000 passengers

Put other way, there is no slow down envisaged to the growth of tourism in the Highlands in the long term, and **without investment in basic facilities such as toilets we risk reputational damage to the area, which inevitably will impact on visitor numbers and the overall attractiveness of the area.**

Hope this helps

Regards

Graeme Ambrose

CEO



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