



Fort William Sawmill  
Corpach  
Fort William  
PH33 7NH  
18/12/09

Tim Stott  
Highland Council  
Glenurquhart Road  
Inverness  
IV3 5NX

Dear Tim,

**WEST HIGHLAND AND ISLANDS LOCAL PLAN  
LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION  
CORPACH – MU1  
HEARING No 3 – WEDS 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2010  
HEARINGS STATEMENT – BSW TIMBER**

H.C. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE		
21 DEC 2009		
PASS TO	INITIALS	DATE
RH		
MM		
TS		
PUBLIC REF:		

I enclose a copy of BSW Timber's Hearing Statement for the above session.

Wishing you all the best for the festive season

Yours sincerely,

Andy Rogers

Mill Manager  
BSW Timber, Fort William





Fort William Sawmill  
Corpach  
Fort William  
PH33 7NH  
18/12/09

Brian Archibald  
Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals  
4 The Courtyard  
Callendar Business Park  
Callendar Road  
Falkirk  
FK1 1XR

Dear Mr Archibald,

**WEST HIGHLAND AND ISLANDS LOCAL PLAN  
LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION  
CORPACH – MU1  
HEARING No 3 – WEDS 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2010  
HEARINGS STATEMENT – BSW TIMBER**

Thank you for the invitation to take part in the above hearing sessions. I am sending a short statement to support BSW Timber's previous letters referring to the above area.

BSW's primary concern remains that the mixed use designation for the existing sawmill site could potentially include community or housing uses. It is our belief that the most appropriate designation for the existing sawmill site is for use classes 4,5 and 6.

The existing sawmill has been in operation since 1974. The old paper mill site, which BSW has purchased for redevelopment, has been operating as an industrial site since the early 1960's. One of our major concerns is the incompatibility of any residential or community development on the existing sawmill site with operations on the new site.

The MU1 site is a large area. The land to the West of the existing sawmill site may well be more appropriate for mixed uses, particularly if the developer carefully locates any residential sites to ensure they are screened from the operations on the new site.

BSW Timber's operations at Corpach continue to grow. From employing 75 people in 2002, we are now one of the largest employers in the Lochaber area with a growing workforce now approaching 130 people. The associated forest operations, suppliers, service and logistics providers push that total towards 500 people. Over the coming years, these numbers will continue to increase.

By their very nature, sawmills and their associated operations are primary manufacturing processes. Our comments regarding the proposed local plan are aimed at growing the employment opportunities in the area whilst minimising any future potential conflict with those who may consider the Eastern end of MU1 as an idyllic rural retreat! Brownfield sites suitable for business uses are in very short supply in the Lochaber area. BSW Timber is keen that the existing sawmill site is utilised to create further complimentary employment opportunities in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Rogers

Mill Manager  
BSW Timber, Fort William

c.c. H.Jones, S.Shiells - BSW Timber

Tim Stott – Highland Council

List of parties taking part in the hearing session.