

Ranger Service and Access Issues

SkyeConnect has played a key role in the relaunch of a ranger service on Skye to assist with visitor management.

Between 2017 and 2021 no Rangers were operating on Skye, in 2018 the local Highland Council Access officer retired and the position was under threat of 'deletion' from the councils' services.

Following a mini-community conference in 2018 SkyeConnect successfully lobbied local elected members to maintain the Access officer Position. Lobbying to reinstate the Ranger service continued throughout 2019 and in 2020 the Highland Council announced funding for a seasonal ranger service with 1.5 FTE positions.

SkyeConnect applied for and was successful in being awarded additional funding to increase this to 3 FTEs. While this is still on a seasonal basis we are hopeful that it will become a permanent service as the role that rangers have played in Visitor Management has had inestimable value.

SkyeConnect continues to be part of the wider coordination effort with the Ranger service meeting regularly with THC and acting as the liaison between the service and local community Trusts and organisations.

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