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Mr Bob Ward

Reply to: [R.E.Ward@lse.ac.uk](mailto:R.E.Ward@lse.ac.uk)

Your ref: -  
Our ref: 2018/0023929  
15 August 2018

Dear Mr Ward

Thank you for your letter dated 5 July 2018 to Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform about the Trump International Golf links at Balmedie and the impact on the SSSI at Foveran Links, Aberdeenshire. I have been asked to reply.

As you are aware, Ministers called in the planning application for their own determination and an inquiry was held, in 2008, where full scrutiny was given to the proposal. Following this, Ministers were satisfied that an efficient, transparent and inclusive process had been duly followed. This then led to Ministers granting outline planning permission. That decision was final and Ministers have no further locus in the planning application or related matters.

Aberdeenshire Council are responsible for local planning matters in their area and to ensure conditions associated with any grant of planning consent relating to the Trump development are complied with. It is, therefore, a matter for Aberdeenshire Council to determine whether enforcement action is appropriate. The following link will take you to the Planning and Building section at the Council <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/>. May I suggest you direct any further queries to them in this respect.

I can advise that under the terms of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) is able to carry out amendments, where appropriate, to the boundaries of SSSI. SNH is currently reviewing several SSSI designations across Scotland including Foveran Links which overlaps the Menie golf course. The review of Foveran Links SSSI was undertaken once the golf course construction was finished and it was therefore practical to assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

As you may be aware, since the date of your letter, SNH has released the Foveran Links site condition monitoring report that has been prepared as part of this review. The results of the full review will be published after it has been considered by SNH's Board later this year.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

**M Hunt**

**Mrs Marion Hunt**