

MSP wants 'guidelines' for visitors

GUIDANCE on how to drive on single track roads and reminders to dispose of litter properly and respect the natural environment should be issued to all Airbnb guests staying in the Highlands, a leading MSP has said.

Kate Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, believes the move could be one of several measures to encourage responsible and sustainable tourism in popular rural areas in her constituency.

With Highland tourism growing, more local people are embracing the economic and social opportunities of home-sharing through Airbnb, which enables hosts to generate extra income in areas with fewer employment opportunities.

Kate Forbes explained: "AirBnB boast hundreds, if not thousands, of hosts across the Highlands as figures released last month made clear.

"This is a unique platform with the unusual opportunity of being able to reach thousands

of tourists relatively quickly and easily.

"It's clear to me that local people get frustrated with the kind of tourism that ignores the fact that real people live, work and raise families in the Highlands all year round.

"Most visitors to the Highlands are respectful, but it goes without saying that there has also been an increase in litter, confused driving on single track roads and certain types of unhelpful behaviour.

"I am calling on Airbnb to use their platform to distribute clear guidelines to all guests about what is, and isn't, appropriate in rural areas like the Highlands and to show respect.

"I would like to see Airbnb enabling all hosts to distribute guidance to guests on the importance of taking litter home, how to drive on single track roads and show respect to other drivers, and finally, a reminder that local residents are here all year round."



Tiegán shoots to fame in Bettyhill Gala

THIS year's Bettyhill Gala Queen is a former Farr High School pupil, 17-year-old Tiegán Alison Johnston of Strathnaver. Tiegán, who has been studying health and social care at the UHI over the past year, is aiming for a career in nursing. Meanwhile, she is having a very busy summer waitressing at The Café in Bettyhill while helping out at the

two sporting lodges on Skelpick and Rhifail Estates where her dad, David Johnstone, is keeper. Tiegán's hobbies include shooting, and she shot her first stag several years ago.

She's also looking forward to the gala, which starts on the evening of Thursday, August 2, and continues until Sunday, August 5.

Independent review of proposed RBS branch closure in Tongue

Johnston Carmichael has been appointed to independently review the proposed closure of the Royal Bank of Scotland branch in Tongue. If you are likely to be affected by the closure we would like to hear your views by 5pm on 14 August 2018.

Johnston Carmichael, the largest independent firm of Chartered Accountants and Business Advisers in Scotland, has been appointed by the Royal Bank of Scotland plc ("RBS") to independently review the proposed closure of ten branches in Beaulay, Biggar, Castlebay, Comrie, Douglas in Lanarkshire, Gretna, Inveraray, Kyle, Melrose and Tongue.

We will be reviewing the usage of each branch on its own merits and then providing RBS with a recommendation on whether we consider each branch should remain open or be closed.

As part of our independent review, we would welcome the views of anyone who uses the RBS branch in Tongue and who would be directly affected by its closure. Specifically, we would like to hear how often you currently use the branch and what you use it for. We would also like to hear if you are aware of alternative ways to bank if the branch was to close and whether those alternatives would reasonably fulfil your everyday banking needs.

**JOHNSTON
CARMICHAEL**

You can share your views with us at any time by:

- Writing to us at The RBS Review Team, Johnston Carmichael LLP, 29 Albyn Place, Aberdeen, AB10 1YL; or
- Completing a short online questionnaire available at www.jcca.co.uk/rbsbranchreview

You can also talk to us in person at the branch on Tuesday 14 August 2018:

- Members of our review team will be visiting the Tongue RBS branch on Tuesday 14 August and would welcome the opportunity to meet customers and users of the branch to discuss their banking needs on a one to one basis. Our team members will be at the branch during normal branch opening times and will be looking to meet with as many people as possible. Appointments of 20 minutes will be made available.
- We strongly advise you to book an appointment to avoid extended waiting times. **To book an appointment, please telephone 01224 259353** between the hours of 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Please note that the deadline for the submission of your views is 5pm on Tuesday 14 August 2018 and all comments that you share about how you use the branch will be kept confidential. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Johnston Carmichael RBS Review Team