

GROUP DISCUSSION – National Parks (with Justin Francis)

REPORTING BACK

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Approaches and purposes of National Parks (environment and leisure activity purpose – clear it's dual purpose and environmental is more dominant) but funding is more focused on the visitor – the Government contradicted itself in its second level advice.

Governance structure – drawing on the NZ situation – national park plans all done locally – UK had five year plans and NZ had 10 year plans – agreement 10 year plans would be better.

In UK in reality representations are being made by a Junior Minister and not terribly good at bringing NP agenda to the Government's table. Could it be more like the Conservation Boards in NZ – National Conservation Authority – reported to Government on 10 year plan – apolitical and carries the weight a Junior Minister doesn't.

Access – unlike many other NP situations around the world, in the UK they are free to access, multiple access points – constraints on that? NPs wouldn't mind being the highway authority and taking on public transport too.

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