

## A COORDINATED AGENDA FOR MARINE, ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS SCIENCE (CAMERAS) (2011-2016)

Ballater and Crathie Community Council  
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Proposals for CAMERAS: response to the consultation from Ballater and Crathie Community Council;

The Members of Ballater and Crathie Community Council are very glad that the Administrators recognize that they do not understand the bases of science and accept that a) judgment is neither efficient nor easy if decisions are taken under false or incomplete premises and b) Scots education is no longer general nor provides training in logic.

Cobblers should stick to their lasts. Scientists observe, record, deduce. Engineers make things work. Businessmen see and develop opportunity. We hope bureaucrats administer the public purse efficiently to everyone's benefit. Making slogans does not necessarily improve national reading and counting achievements and it is arguable that mistaken theories have led to the admitted decline in educational standards which originally were, and are now, required for economic success. Expertise judged by peers may well be applicable for funding potential economic development, but expecting that to take place in what is essentially a public meeting is mistaken. Even David Attenborough or Brian Cox could not be expected to give notice of the *next* discoveries and few people are likely to have the experienced judgment to promote development, balancing the waste of research time, travel or energy which might themselves have *produced* that knowledge. Simple social connections should not be impossible in a small country and are some of the advantages of small universities or clumps of research institutes. A reduction in box-ticking or even joining clubs would stand a better chance than formal expositions of dumbed down facts, in 'sparking connections' in nonreaders of learned journals.

So we would propose 1) continuing to support synthetic phonics before other teaching methods in reading:  
2) 50% increase in school teachers' salaries, early testing of their communication ability, mobile streaming in larger classes in secondary schools with more and varied physical education, easier removal of poor teachers with their redeployment and training to more suitable occupations and a stable, knowledge-based curriculum:  
3) reduction in restrictive regulations in business:  
4) simplification of the taxation system:

5) improved security of wireless Broad-band to permit rural IT based businesses with low infrastructure costs.

6) and let us concentrate, freely. Just like Mr Salmond says he wants.