



FOI Ref: 2015/026

8th June 2015

REQUEST UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

Thank you for your 12th request for information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, received by email on 8th May 2015. Your specific requests and the relevant information held by the National Park Authority are provided below.

1. Does the Five Lochs Visitor Management Group still exist? If so, please could you tell me who is on it, minutes of all meetings of the VMG since the Plan was launched by Bruce Crawford MSP and any other information from the Group which is relevant to the "Timetable for Information" set out in Section 12 of the Plan? If the VMG has been replaced by some other group, for example a stakeholder group, please provide the same information as requested for the VMG.

The 5 Lochs Visitor Management Stakeholder Group is still in operation. The current list of members is:

Name	Organisation
Graeme Archibald	LLTPA
Bridget Jones	LLTPA
PC Paul Barr	Police Scotland
Inspector Gerry McMenemy	Police Scotland
Owen McKee	LLTNPA Board
Martin Earl	LLTNPA Board
David Warnock	LLTNPA Board
Fergus Wood	LLTNPA Board
Alistair Barclay	Balquhidder, Lochearnhead & Strathyre Community Council
Gene Maxwell	Trossachs Community Council
Cheryl Campbell	Killin Community Council
Elaine Fotheringham	SportScotland
Paul Roberts	Scottish Natural Heritage
Liz Walker	Forestry Commission Scotland
Richard Greame	St Fillans Community Council
Judith Hogg	Scottish Land & Estates

LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

National Park Headquarters, Carrochan, Carrochan Road, Balloch, G83 8EG Long: 4°34'24"W Lat: 56°00'12"N
t: 01389 722600 f: 01389 722633 e: info@lochlomond-trossachs.org w: lochlomond-trossachs.org
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Minutes from meetings of this group have been attached as follows:

- Appendix A - 16th April 2013 – Callender National Park Office
- Appendix B - 22nd October 2013 - Callender National Park Office
- Appendix C - 1st April 2014 – Callender Youth Project Office
- Appendix D - 3rd December 2014 - Callender Youth Project Office

Minutes from the most recent meeting of this group on 29th April 2015 have not been completed yet.

The names of some external third parties have been redacted from these minutes. These individuals were mentioned in the context of potentially being contacted in relation to matters being discussed, however this information is considered to be the personal data of specific individuals as defined in the Data Protection Act 1998, and the release of the information requested would be in breach of the data protection principles as defined in the Data Protection Act 1998.

Therefore the exemption from release of the information applies as specified under sections 38(1)(b) and 38(2) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This exemption is an absolute exemption under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

An absolute exemption is where there is no requirement to consider the public interest in the disclosure of the information, it is completely exempt from release.

Section 12 of the Five Lochs Visitor Management Plan, November 2012 (Pg. 8) provides a Timetable for Implementation. It is considered that this is what you have meant when you asked about the “Timetable for Information” set out in Section 12 of the Plan”. The minutes of the meetings provided show the progress of the plans for the implementation of this project.

The following additional information from the Group has been provided:

1. Trunk road clearway proposal map
2. Table of key actions progress to date
3. Illustrations of work for the Scenic Routes Project: Lubnaig Beag

2a. What progress has been made with the Loch Venachar North development that was planned for 2013-14? Who is the landowner? Does the Park still plan to provide 8 new camping places, 2 motorhome places and a toilet block? Are these places included in the new places the Park has stated it will deliver over the next year (Your Park recommendations report)? If not, please explain why the plan has changed.

The landowner of the Loch Venachar north sites is the National Park Authority and proposals for the sites development have not been progressed. We are currently reviewing our approaches to camping management and provision in the 5 Lochs areas as part of the Your Park project.

2b. What progress has been made with the Glenoglehead development which was planned for 2014-15? Who is the landowner? Does the Park still plan to provide 9 new camping and 2 new motorhome places and a toilet in addition to the places it is creating in the proposed Management Zones?

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The landowner for the Glenoglehead site is the National Park Authority. As with Loch Vennechar, we are currently reviewing our approaches to camping management and provision in the 5 Lochs areas as part of the Your Park project.

2c.What progress has been made with the Loch Earn South (site 6) development for which no date was given in the Five Lochs Plan? Who is the landowner? Does the Park still plan to provide 3 new camping places and a toilet? Are these places included in the new places the Park has stated it will deliver over the next year (Your Park recommendations report)? If not, please explain why the plan has changed.

The landowner for the Loch Earn south site 6 is Ardvorlich Estate. This site does fall within an area identified for improving camping opportunities and provision in the Your Park consultation document. We have just received approval from the National Park Authority Board, on 27th April 2015 to progress with the camping development plan and in doing so will be considering a range of options for site development.

3.Has the litter strategy planned for 2013-14 been delivered? If so, please provide a copy. If not, please advise why this has been delayed? Please provide a copy of the full Keep Scotland Beautiful Report.

The litter strategy for the area has been delayed to take into account the findings and recommendations from the Scottish Governments' national litter strategy consultation and subsequently published National Litter Strategy. Details can be found at:

<http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/TowardsALitterFreeScotland>

The Keep Scotland Beautiful litter audit report is available to view in the downloads section of our Your Park website: www.thisisyourpark.org.uk

4a.The Your Park consultation stated that the Park intended to spend £10m on new camping investment. Is there any overlap between this and the sums included in the 5 Lochs Management Plan budget of £5,719,000 which included provision for camping? If so, please identify which camping projects within the 5 Lochs Visitor Management Plan are also included in the Park's £10m camping investment proposal and how much is now allocated to these?

The current review of camping management takes into account a variety of options for camping provision, including the options identified within the 5 Lochs Visitor Management Plan. This work is on-going as part of our work to prepare a camping development plan to sit alongside camping management byelaws.

4b.How much of the £1m allocated to implement the 5 Lochs Visitor Management Plan in 2012-13 was spent in that year? How much of this was spent on the Loch Lubnaig North project which was scheduled for completion in 2012-13?

The total spend on the 5 Lochs visitor management projects for the year 2012/13 was £827,640.

We do not hold a record specifically for the north Lubnaig site, as the two Lubnaig sites were developed as a single project. The total capital spend on the Lubnaig sites over financial years 2012/13 and 2013/14 was £1,254,000.

4c.How much has the Park spent on delivering the 5 Lochs Plan up until 5th April 2015?

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We do not hold a total figure for spend on the delivery of the 5 Lochs Plan actions alone. This is one of many areas of our business where we undertake visitor management activity in the National Park. However from our financial records we have recorded a total spend of £2,081,711 up to 31st March 2015.

4d. Were the estimated budgets of £735k excl. VAT for the Loch Venarchar North development scheduled for completion in 2013-14 and £823k excl. VAT for Glenoglehead development scheduled for completion in 2014-15 included in the Park's budget for those financial years? If not, why not? If they were, were they then re-allocated for other purposes and if so what?

The budget allocation for the year 2013/14 was identified to complete the Loch Lubniag sites and the budget allocation for 2014/15 was identified for the north and south Loch Venachar sites.

As stated in the 5 Lochs Visitor Management Plan, the actions identified for 2013/14 onwards are approximations to be revised each year subject to resources, landowner agreements etc. It should also be noted that the development costs are estimates.

In the case of Loch Lubnaig, the site took longer to complete than anticipated due to a number of factors including weather and site conditions. The available budget for 2014/15 dictated the scale of project for development along with a re-prioritisation exercise involving the 5 Lochs Stakeholder Group and also taking into account the review of camping management.

Yours sincerely

Information Officer

info@lochlomond-trossachs.org

Appendices available on request

Review Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with this decision, or the way in which the Authority has dealt with your request, you are entitled to require the Authority to review its decision. Please note that in order for a review to take place you are required to:

- Send your request for review in writing, setting out in full the reasons why you are requesting a review.
- Submit your review request within 40 working days of either the date on which you received a response from the Authority or the date by which you should have received a response under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, whichever is the later.
- address your review request to the Director of Corporate Services:

Jaki Carnegie
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority
National Park Headquarters
Carrochan
Carrochan Road

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The review will be handled by staff who were not involved in the original decision. You will receive notice of the result of your review within 20 working days.

If you are not satisfied with the response to your request for review, you can contact the Scottish Information Commissioner, the independent body which oversees the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, at:

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS
Tel: 01334 464610
Website: www.itspublicknowledge.info
E-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

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