



EIR Ref: 2017/021

16th March 2017

REQUEST UNDER ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2004

I refer to your request for information, received by email on 2nd February 2017.

We have applied the exemption under Section 39(2) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 as we have determined that the information sought in your request is environmental information. We are therefore handling your request under the terms of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs). In this case the public interest in maintaining this exemption and in dealing with the request in line with the requirements of the EIRs outweighs any public interest in disclosing the information under FOISA.

Your specific requests and the response from the National Park Authority are provided below.

1. "The total number of boats launched at both the Duncan Mills and Millarochy Bay slipways for each of the last 3 years."

Details of boat launches at both the Duncan Mills and Millarochy Bay slipways have been made available on our website at:

<http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/rr-content/uploads/2016/07/March-Boat-launch-figures.pdf>

I can therefore advise under R6(1)(b) of the EIRs that this information is already publically available and accessible.

2. "The total revenue obtained from boat launching, registration and related activities for each of the last 3 years."

The total revenue obtained from boat launching, registration and related activities for each of the last 3 years is as follows, which includes launch fees, registration fees and donations in relation to this activity.

- 2016/17 £55,068 as at end February 2017
- 2015/16 £54,768
- 2014/15 £56,076
- 2013/14 £59,804

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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3. "A breakdown of the data at request 1, in whatever granularity you have readily available (e.g. by month, by week, by day-of-week)."

See answer to Q1 above. I can therefore advise under R6(1)(b) of the EIRs that this information is already publically available and accessible.

4. Any records you hold on the number of people using beach/launch area at Millarochy Bay for each of the last 3 years. Ideally broken down in a similar way to request 3.

The Park Authority does not record the number of people using the beach/launch area at Millarochy Bay. Accordingly I have to advise under S10(4)(a) of the EIRs that this information is not held.

5. The minutes of all meetings of the NPA, including internal management or similar meetings, and any transcripts or recording of those meetings that you hold, where the topic of closing the Millarochy Bay slipway has been discussed, including any documents, proposals, papers or assessments provided to those meetings on this topic.

The topic of closing the Millarochy bay slipway was discussed at a meeting of the Park Authority Executive team in August 2016. The Park Authority does not make recordings of meetings. Accordingly I have to advise under S10(4)(a) of the EIRs that this information is not held. A briefing note on this topic was presented at this meeting and is attached in Appendix A.

6. The cost of writing to all registered boat users to advise them of your decision to close this slipway.

Information about the closure of the slipway at Millarochy was included in all boat registration letters that were sent out to all open registrations held on the Park Authority's database. These letters are sent out every year, to invite boat users to re-register for the new season. Therefore there was no additional cost incurred in advising boat users of the slipway closure. Accordingly I have to advise under S10(4)(a) of the EIRs that this information is not held.

Yours sincerely

Governance & Legal Team
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority

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.

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- address your review request to:

Governance & Legal Team
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority
National Park Headquarters
Carrochan
Carrochan Road
Balloch
G83 8EG
E-mail: info@lochlomond-trossachs.org

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

Online appeal portal: www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal

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Executive Meeting

Agenda Item 4



Milarrochy Bay Visitor Management

Paper for decision

1. Purpose

To seek Executive decision regarding boat launching facilities at Milarrochy Bay.

2. Recommendation

Following very clear health & safety advice provided by Brian Mitchell from SEPA the only viable options are to close the slipway when the site is not staffed or staff the site to supervise launch operations.

The recommendation is therefore to close the slipway at Milarrochy Bay when the site is not staffed.

Continuing to allow vehicular access to the beach to facilitate launching without staff supervision has been identified as an unacceptable health & safety risk and is leading to increased levels of conflict between recreational users. It is anticipated that this would not prevent the launching of non-powered craft such as canoes or paddle boards.

The difficult decision to reduce staffing levels on the site was made to ensure the most efficient and effective use of resources available. Having staff based on site at peak periods to deal with high visitor numbers offers a practical balance of service delivery and efficient staff deployment.

The current budget situation does not have the capacity to staff Milarrochy and continue to deliver the other visitor management priorities of the Ranger Service. Staffing the site purely to facilitate boat launching would be a very resource expensive option.

During the 2015 season on from April to September there were a total of 559 launches at Milarrochy with approximately 335 requiring full use of the slipway. Of those 335 launches only 141 took place on weekdays which equates to just over 1 per day. The cost of fully staffing the slipway purely to facilitate launches would be the equivalent of £278 per launch.

3. Introduction

Site management

Milarrochy is a busy and important visitor destination which has previously been staffed 7 days a week during the summer season from 1st April to the end of September. This

Before submitting, have you checked in with the following:

Executive Sponsor

X
n/a

Finance

n/a
n/a

HR

Legal

Executive Meeting

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Milarrochy Bay Visitor Management

involved 4 staff per day covering both early and late shifts. Key duties of the staff on site included:

- Promoting and providing information about the National Park to visitors and WHW walkers passing through.
- Educating visitors regarding the ELL camping management byelaws and providing advice on suitable camping areas.
- During peak periods managing car parking and providing 1st Aid cover.
- Managing boats and other craft launching via the slipway on site.
- Foot patrols and checks on site infrastructure.
- Providing support for both the ELL byelaw patrols and staffing of Balmaha Visitor Centre

Due to budget constraints for the 2016 season the decision was made to reduce staffing on site to weekends and peak holiday days. This is primarily to make available the resources required to conduct Your Park operational trials in June & August 2016 and deploy the required patrolling resources needed for March 2017.

4. Issues & Concerns

Withdrawing the staffing resource at Milarrochy from Monday to Friday has resulted in the following issues:

- The health & safety risks associated with the launch & retrieval of craft from the site have significantly increased.
- Lack of health & safety support for craft that have launched from the site.
- It is impossible to monitor site security, who is launching and whether the craft are registered on the loch. This includes potential loss of revenue from launch fees.
- There is an increased risk of conflict between different groups of visitors which would have previously been managed by staff.
- We have been receiving complaints from the public regarding launches from the site while it is not staffed.
- The mobile signal at Milarrochy is very poor. This makes it very difficult for visitors to contact us to get access to the slipway or in an emergency.

5. Options

- Close the slipway when the site is not staffed, which would deal with many of the current issues and concerns. This has potential to increase complaints from those

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Finance
Legal

n/a
n/a

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Millarrochy Bay Visitor Management

who regularly launch from the site and in particular those who have bought an annual launch card.

- Staff the site with both normal & late shifts with associated cost of approximately £300 per day. This option would allow the Ranger Service to effectively manage the site, provide information and engage positively with visitors.
- Staff the site for 1 shift per day with associated costs of approximately £150 per day. This option would allow the Ranger Service to provide some support for those wishing to launch from the site, provide information and engage positively with visitors.
- Reduce staffing at other sites or visitor management patrolling shifts. This is not seen as a desirable option.
- Accept the current levels of risk and deal with any complaints that arise. This is not seen as an acceptable option.

6. Conclusion

To seek Executive approval to close the slipway when not staffed.

Author: Martin Page, Ranger Service Manager

Executive Sponsor: Simon Jones, Director of Conservation & Visitor Operations

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Executive Sponsor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input type="checkbox"/>
HR	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legal	<input type="checkbox"/>