



FOI Ref: 2015/009

18th March 2015

REQUEST UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, received by email on 20th February 2015. Your specific requests and the relevant information held by the National Park Authority are provided below.

Who approved the East Loch Lomond Visitor Management Plan?

The Visitor Management Plan drafted in 2014, has been commented on by the group. Final approval of the Plan will take place once the pre season meeting has taken place on the 24th March.

What authority they had to do this?

The East Loch Lomond Stakeholder Group was set up as a collective of interested parties, to achieve joined up working to improve the East Loch Lomond area for visitors and residents. Specific actions are allocated to the relevant partner, for them to progress. The Park Authority supports the group with hosting of meetings, minute taking and drafting of documents. The Park Authority also has a role in taking forward relevant actions, in a similar way to the Forestry Commission or Stirling Council.

Who was sent copies of the Plan

Copies of the Plan have been circulated to all members of the group as follows:

- Buchanan Community Council
- Police Scotland
- Forestry Commission Scotland
- Stirling Council
- National Trust for Scotland

A representative from each group attends the bi annual meetings, and are copied into circulation for comment on any redrafts and to receive the annually refreshed plans.

What discussions have taken place with the National Trust for Scotland since their offer to provide ground for an informal campsite at Rowardennan in March 2014

Staff from the Park Authority met staff from the National Trust for Scotland as part of the 'Your Park' informal engagement on the 14th May 2014. This meeting was a briefing about the whole project rather than site specific development discussions. There were no notes recorded at this informal meeting, however there were 2 subsequent emails on this subject which are attached.

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
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In addition, a Rowardennan master planning session was held on 1st July 2013. The notes from this meeting are attached.

Some information in the above documents has been redacted as they contained personal details of individuals. This means that release of this information 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 means that there is no requirement to consider whether there is any public interest in the disclosure of the information.

Mr Watson also met with the CEO of the Scottish Youth Hostel Association on 19th December 2014 to discuss the same subject. There were no notes recorded at this informal meeting.

What progress has been made towards establishing camping provision there?

A community planning workshop was held in December 2014. This workshop directly involved the local community, seeking their views and comments on planning proposals in several locations including Rowardennan. No specific comments were made about development at Rowardennan. A full write up of the discussion can be found on our website at www.ourlivepark.com

This report is split into 5 parts online. The link to the first section is

<http://www.ourlivepark.com/download/buchanan-workshops-report-part1/> the other parts are listed underneath.

Impact of camping bye laws on West Highland Way walkers and others

What information does the Park have in respect of the number of people who were trying to camp in the area that came under the east Loch Lomond camping bye-laws in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 but agreed to move on when requested to do so by Rangers?

The Rangers who patrol East Loch Lomond have gathered the following information, as a result of their patrols undertaken since 2011.

East Loch Lomond	Patrols carried out	Tents recorded (people spoken to and moved on)	Campers escalated to police	Percentage escalated (%)	Percentage dealt with by NPA staff (%)
2011	208	272	6	2	98
2012	670	64	4	6	94
2013	321	72	5	7	93
2014	389	66	2	3	97
Totals		474	17	4	96

Could you please clarify whether the east Loch Lomond Visitor Management Group was set up to address the issues in the area covered by the Visitor Management Plans or had a wider geographical remit?

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East Loch Lomond Visitor Management Group, renamed East Loch Lomond Stakeholder Group was set up to bring together a group of partners and interested stakeholders to address the issues in the area covered by the Visitor Management Plans.

If the remit was for a wider geographical area, what area was covered by the Group?

The remit of this group has been explained in the answer to the last previous question above.

What is the remit of the new East Loch Lomond Stakeholder Group that has been set up in its place?

The remit of this group remains the same, to improve the East Loch Lomond area. However the focus of the group has moved towards enabling and supporting visitors to come to the area and have a fantastic experience.

Who decided this?

The remit was proposed by the Park Authority and agreed by the stakeholder groups who are members.

Yours sincerely

Information Officer

info@lochlomond-trossachs.org

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
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.

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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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