



EIR Ref: 2018-010

17th April 2018

REQUEST UNDER ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2004

I refer to your request for information, received by email on 19th March 2018. The information you have requested is environmental information, as defined in Regulation 2 of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs). The Park Authority has an obligation to deal with your request under the EIRs and an option to also deal with your request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA), unless the public interest lies in dealing with your request solely under the EIRs. We consider that the public interest in dealing with your request solely under the EIRs outweighs the public interest in also dealing with your request under FOISA, on the basis that the public interest is not served by duplicating consideration of your request under both regimes. We have therefore applied the exemption in section 39(2) of FOISA and dealt with your request under the EIRs alone.

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

“I have been studying your website and annual accounts but can't find much information on path maintenance. Could you please provide me with details of your path maintenance budget and spend for the last financial year.”

Our in-house Estates Team carry out general grounds maintenance on our own sites, which includes path maintenance as well as general site tidying, strimming, grass cutting, tree works, repair and maintenance of site infrastructure (e.g. picnic benches), clearing and repairing site drains and litter picking.

Our ground maintenance spend was £236,211 in 2016, and £142,170 in 2017. We don't have a separate cost code specifically for spend on path maintenance so it is not possible to provide a figure just for work on paths. Accordingly I have to advise under Regulation 10(4)(a) of the EIRs that this information is not held.

Details of our spend for the last financial year will be in our annual report and accounts which are due to be published on our website when they have been signed off in the next few months.

It may be helpful for you to know that while we maintain the access routes and paths that run

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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across our own estate land, this only covers a very small proportion of the paths in the National Park, generally low level paths within visitor sites around our loch shores. We do have the powers to do work on Core Paths, however we do not have any obligations and the responsibility remains with the respective landowner/land managers.

We are also involved in the Mountains and the People project, which is a five year landscape scale project involving the Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund in partnership with, Cairngorms National Park, Forestry Commission Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage. This project includes important work on path maintenance that you may find useful. Details can be found at:

<http://themountainsandthepeople.org.uk/>

Yours sincerely

Governance & Legal Team
Loch Lomond & 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.
- 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:

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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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