



EIR REVIEW Ref: 2017-029

24th April 2017

REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF DECISION UNDER ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2004 (the “Regulations”)

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority received your request for review on 11th April 2017 relating to your original request for information with the reference EIR 2017-029 which you made on 10th March 2017.

Basis of Request for Review

You originally asked to be provided with ‘all information, including training materials, issued to the LLTNPA Rangers and the National Park police officer, about the Interpretation and enforcement of the camping byelaws, prior to their implementation on 1st March 2017’.

The Park Authority responded providing you with links to information which was issued and by explaining that training materials were either not held or not being released. The exceptions under Regulations 10(4)(a) and 10(4)(e) were applied and the balance of public interest in the release or withholding of the information was considered. The topics which were covered by the training were listed.

In your follow up request submitted on 11th April 2017 you asked for clarification of two points in the response:

- a) Your letter refers to the Park's Visitor Management Engagement and Enforcement Policy, which is of course public, but does not say whether the policy and procedures referred to in 6.1 of that document (pasted below) were issued to Rangers. Were they and, if so, why have you not provided them to me as part of your response? (I have submitted a later FOI asking explicitly for these documents).**
- b) Scenario based training. I had asked for information issued to Rangers and appreciate that in the scenario based training they were given the scenarios verbally. Can you please confirm though whether the Park produced written scenarios for this training for use by the people doing the training and if so, please provide them to me along with any notes/information on their use.**

Assessment of relevant information

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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The Park Authority's original response either provided you with the information which had been issued to Park Authority Rangers or explained why it was being withheld. The policies and procedures listed in 6.1 of the Visitor Management Engagement and Enforcement Policy were not issued separately to the Rangers as part of the preparation for the introduction of the byelaws, all staff are expected to be familiar with any policies and procedures applicable to their role which were available to them in the course of their work. Your separate information request for these documents is being dealt with.

You acknowledge that the scenario based training was given verbally and that training materials were not issued to the Rangers. In your follow up request you ask whether written scenarios were produced for those providing the training and, if so, you ask for copies. I confirm that brief notes for each scenario were provided to those delivering the training. These notes have been withheld from release as this information is considered to be internal communications which are exempt from release under R10(4)(e) of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

Consideration has been given to the public interest in the disclosure of this information. Release of this information is likely to have a negative impact on the ability of the Rangers to perform an effective role in working with the police, interacting with the public and, where required, submitting byelaw contravention reports.

It has been concluded that there is a greater public interest in Park Authority Rangers receiving operational training from the National Park Police Officer and Visitor Management Adviser, to ensure that they have the appropriate information and skills to perform their duties, in relation to the application of the camping management byelaws. The effectiveness of this training would be compromised by the release of the notes used by the trainers.

Decision

I have reviewed the Park Authority's original response and confirm that it was handled correctly with some information provided and with the correct application of relevant exceptions. Your further request for documents provided to trainers rather than directly to Rangers has now been dealt with above.

Review Procedure

If you are not satisfied with this decision you are entitled to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. Please note that in order for an appeal to take place you must lodge your appeal within six months of the date of receipt of this letter.

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St Andrews
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KY16 9DS
Tel: 01344 464 610
Website: www.itpublicknowledge.info
E-mail: enquiries@itpublicknowledge.info

Yours sincerely,

LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

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