



9 February 2015

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT

Thank you for your email and letter of 12 January 2015 requesting information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Your specific questions, extracted from your letter, and the Park Authority responses are provided below.

What data does the NP have on the number of people exercising their rights to camp responsibly who would be affected by the proposed new by laws?

If implemented, the proposed new Byelaws would apply to any visitors who go to the parts of the National Park where new Byelaws are introduced. The National Park Authority does not have recorded information on the total numbers of people who have previously camped responsibly in the entire National Park. However we do hold data on the number of tents recorded by rangers whilst on patrol in the busiest areas of the Park during the summer season.

What data does the NP have on the people using the Sallochy campsite both in terms of numbers and why they are there.

Forestry Commission Scotland figures show that in the 2013 season there were 28,098 visitors and 15,610 vehicles at the Sallochy camp site. We do not hold any information on the reasons why these visitors were at this site.

Forestry Commission Scotland run this campsite and may hold more relevant recorded information. Contact details can be found on their website at <http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/contact>

What are the numbers of people who formerly held drinking parties on the lochsides people who would have formerly wild camped (and if so what is their view of the campsite) and (number of people) who only ever use campsites?

We do not record information on those people who have previously held drinking parties on the lochsides, or who have previously been wild camping, nor do we record their opinion of the Sallochy camp site. We do not have recorded information on numbers of people who only ever use campsites.

The consultation repeats the figure reported in the east Loch Lomond bye law review that there had been a reduction of 82% in incidents of anti-social behaviour since the LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

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introduction of the bye laws. That report gives no context or other data on that drop apart from a reference from Police Scotland that the figure is for the whole of the east Loch Lomond area including Drymen.

Please therefore provide 1) total figures for each year – for the number and type of anti social behaviour for the east Loch Lomond area and of these how many of these took place in the area covered by the existing bye laws and then out of these how many were linked to people camping and what the nature of that link was.

The figure reported in relation to a reduction of incidents in anti-social behaviour was provided by Police Scotland. The Park Authority work closely with the police and rely on their support in handling anti social behaviour, however the Park Authority does not hold the additional information you are asking for. This information may be recorded by Police Scotland. Information about making a Freedom of Information request to the police can be found at: <http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/>

Does the National Park take photos of people camping responsibly? if so is this done on same basis as for irresponsible camping (eg each time rangers come across a camp) and why are these not also posted on the website as part of the evidence?

The Park Authority has taken photographs of people camping responsibly. Images can be found on the dedicated flickr site www.flickr.com/thisisyourpark and on www.thisisyourpark.org

There may be a requirement to record information, including photographs to deal with problems resulting from irresponsible camping. There is not the same requirement to record responsible camping where no further action is required. As a result we have fewer images held of responsible camping. The rangers do not, as a matter of course, take photos each time they come across a camp, they do however record information on a patrol database.

What data does the NP have for the other proposed management zones which demonstrates what impacts are associated with overnight rather than day stays?

Whilst our Rangers are out and about they collect a huge amount of information on visitor activity. This ranges from information on numbers of tents, people, through to number of fires and bags of litter. We have a database holding this information spanning the last 4 years.

Please find attached, samples of our Ranger patrol data sheets, taken from our Ranger patrol database. Due to the large number of records held on our database, we would suggest that you may find it helpful to visit us to view the database.

Provide me with the opening dates and times of ALL public toilets in the park, both those operated by the Park authority and those by other public authorities.

Information about public toilet facilities in the National Park area, owned by the Park Authority and other organisations, are available on our website at: <http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/visiting/visitor-information-centres-facilities/menu-id-97.html>

I would like to know the total number of examples of criminal behaviour identified by the National Park in relation to camping (preferably for the last four years), the number of times the police were called to these incidents , and what action was subsequently taken.

This information is not held by the Park Authority but may be available from Police Scotland, who can be contacted via the details given above.

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How many FAILED prosecutions have resulted from police action for the same period.

This information is not recorded by the Park Authority but may be available from Police Scotland, or the Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service who can be contacted at:

<http://www.copfs.gov.uk/foi/how-to-access-information-held-by-copfs>

I would like to ask if the Park has any information about what percentage of "campable" land within the National Park under 300m in height is affected by proposed bye laws and if so what this shows

The areas of the National Park which would be affected by the proposed Byelaws can be seen in the Your Park consultation document.

Defining 'campable' land within the National Park is subjective, as different people who camp in the National Park will be happy to do so in a very wide range of different situations. Some may wish an entirely flat pitch, some may want to be in a glade within trees.

Has the statement about the impact of the bye laws being evident been validated in any way and if so how and by who? Please supply the validation if it exists.

The Park Authority previously completed a Report for the Scottish Ministers. This report reviewed the operation of the East Loch Lomond Camping Byelaws. This report has been made publicly available. I enclose a copy of this report for your information.

What discussions has the NP had with relevant authorities about extending alcohol bye laws and overnight parking restrictions in the proposed new management zones?

The Your Park Project is still at the proposal stage. The Park Authority has not commenced discussions with external parties about extending alcohol byelaws and overnight parking restrictions.

The Park Authority does not have the powers to introduce Byelaws controlling the consumption of alcohol in public places. However some information has been passed to the relevant Community Councils about what would be involved in this process. A number of communities have applied to the relevant local authorities for such byelaws.

The Park Authority proposals for overnight parking relate to sleeping a vehicle overnight and not parking. We have had discussions with Forestry Commission Scotland, transport Scotland and local authorities about the Your Park proposals.

If discussions have taken place, what were the outcomes?

As stated above, discussions have not yet taken place, however the Park Authority has provided some information to Community Councils based on our knowledge of the issues associated with the introduction of alcohol byelaws on East Loch Lomond.

Does the National Park know how much income is generated each year by the issues of fishing permits? If so, how much is it?

The Park Authority has not responsible for fishing permits and does not record information about income generated by the issuing of fishing permits. Fishing permits are issued by different riparian owners throughout the Park area for a variety of lochs and rivers.

What efforts has the Park made to ensure that the owners of riparian fishing rights "police" the permits they issue?

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The Park Authority does not have responsibility for managing or monitoring the use of fishing permits. The enforcement of fisheries legislation lies with the police and water bailiffs. However, the Park Authority has worked to improve the standard of angling facilities in the Park and encourage standards of good practice in this area.

What is the cost to the National Park of funding the police involvement in Operation Ironworks?

The Park Authority has provided funding to the police for the last three years for Operation Ironworks as follows:

Year	Funding to police
2013/14	£29,000
2012/13	£27,000
2011/12	£35,000

This does not include the funding that we contribute for the National Park Police Officer post which is £35,000 per annum.

How many police officers are so funded (full time equivalents)

The Park Authority does not record this information. Funding is provided by the Authority for the purpose of supporting the additional deployment of police in the Park, however we do not record details of the numbers of police officers who are funded by this money. This information would be held by Police Scotland.

How many Police Officers (fte) does Police Scotland deploy in the National Park?

Police Scotland has seconded one full time Police Constable to the Authority and covers the Park area. The Authority does not hold information about numbers of police officers that Police Scotland may deploy in the National Park. This information would be held by Police Scotland.

What evaluation has the National Park taken on the effectiveness of the deployment of police resources as opposed to Rangers to tackle anti-social behaviour (as opposed to the educational role of rangers).

The Park Authority works closely with the police in tackling all types of anti-social behaviour, however the Park Authority is not responsible for the deployment of police resources. Where the Ranger service encounter anti-social behaviour, information is passed to Police Scotland in order for them to use the powers they have at their disposal to undertake appropriate enforcement action.

Both Police Scotland and the Rangers undertake an educational role with regard to encouraging and promoting responsible behaviour in the National Park, this is done through the National Parks Respect the Park campaign which has been in place in evolving forms since 2007.

The East Loch Lomond bye-laws as published stated they would be reviewed at the end of October 2014 but the review was considered by the Board in March 2014 (i.e. before the three years was complete). I can find no explanation for the reasons for this change in the Board papers.

Why did this happen and who took the decision?

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The report requested by Ministers on approval of the byelaws in 2011 was to cover the first 3 years of operations, this was initially set for October 2014 to allow for 3 full seasons of the byelaws. However when the Authority prepared its National Park Partnership Plan 2012 – 2017 the date was brought forward to end 2013, and was approved by the NP Board. The reason for bringing the date forward was as a result of the significant changes that occurred in the first 3 years of operation i.e. 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Has the Minister responded to the Review?

A report was submitted to the Scottish Ministers on the operation of the East Loch Lomond Camping Byelaws. This report has been attached. The Minister acknowledged receipt of our report.

Why was the Review, which was already a public document, not included in the consultation documents?

There was no requirement to include the report on the operation of the East Loch Lomond Camping Byelaws within the consultation documents for Your Park, since this report was already in the public domain, and is on our National Park website. In addition, the consultation does reference some of the figures from the report.

Yours sincerely,

Information Officer

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

Direct: 01389 722132

www.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

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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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