



EIR Ref: 2018/21

24th September 2018

REQUEST UNDER ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2004

I refer to your request for information, received by email on 29th July 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 requests and the response from the National Park Authority are provided below.

1) *“ October 2015 update refers to two items:*

a) 5.2.1 refers to a study that had been commissioned on the West Highland Way and which was due for completion in 2016 - please provide me with a copy”

A copy of the West Highland Way report is attached.

(available on request)

b) “5.2.5 refers to commencement of waterbus specific research (which the December Org Update says was completed) - please provide it”

The results of the 2015 Waterbus survey are attached.

(available on request)

2) “December 2015: the update states “work has focussed on creating a monitoring and research programme for visitor management information” - please could you confirm what research was agreed as part of that programme and provide me with this”

This information has previously been provided in response to request reference EIR 2018/001, which was sent to you on 6th March 2018, and the response has been published in our disclosure

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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log: <https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/park-authority/freedom-of-information/information-responses/>

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

3) March 2016: references to the SEPA led Strathard Ecosystem project commissioning research: please confirm whether or not LLTNPA commissioned research as part of this and if so provide it

The Park Authority did not commission research as part of this SEPA led project. Accordingly we have to advise under Regulation 10(4)(a) of the EIRs that this information is not held.

Information about the project can be found at partner websites - <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/strathard-a-landscape-to-live-work-and-play/> and <https://www.thecommunitypartnership.org.uk/project/strathard-a-place-to-live-work-play/>

4) "October 2016 5.1 refers to £50k additional funding having been secured from the Destination Development Fund which "will be used to undertake research for monitoring the visitor experience impacts of Your Park and for tourism volume and value for monitoring for the next NPPP". By December 2016 focus of research appears to have changed slightly to £research is being carried out in 2017 including a volume and value study of tourism economy of the Park and a non-visitor survey. The results of these studies will be available after summer 2017 and will complement the results of the visitor survey, providing valuable insights for Visitor Experience policy development and for businesses in the Park". This then appears to have changed slightly at the June 2017 meeting (5.1) which does however say the results of the surveys would be available in the Autumn. While its unclear what was actually commissioned please provide the research paid for by this money"

The recently received 2017 STEAM report will be published on our website with an anticipated publication date of this autumn.

A recently received "non-explorer" survey will be published on our website with an anticipated publication date of this autumn.

A visitor experience survey of campers in the National Park is underway, the results of this will be published on completion of the report.

5) "March 2017 refers to "habitat monitoring research" (4.3) - (this is repeated in Dec 2017 update) please confirm whether this has ever been undertaken and if so provide it"

This report will be published on the Deer Management Group Website, with an anticipated publication date of this autumn.

6) "Dec 2017 refers to camera trap wildcat surveys - please confirm if this was commissioned, ie if the LLTNPA made a financial contribution to it, and if so provide it".

The Park Authority undertook a wildcat survey with staff, volunteers and partners. Once finalised the report will be published on our website.

Yours sincerely

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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:

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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