



FOI Ref: 2020/013

28<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### **REQUEST UNDER ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2004**

We refer to your request for information, received by email on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020. The information you have requested is environmental information, as defined in Regulation 2 of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs). 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 National Park Authority's response are provided below.

**“Under the Freedom of Information act, I am writing to request some figures regarding waste disposal and costs. Specifically, I would like to know:**

**The amount spent in the last financial year by the park on removing and cleaning litter, dealing with fly-tipping and other related offences. I include in this the amount spent on waste removal contracts, bin installations, organising litter picks, cost of man hours, and any other costs associated with waste disposal within the parks.”**

While the National Park Authority is not a litter authority, we have recruited a Litter Prevention Manager to coordinate our approach and improve litter management in the National Park.

We manage litter at our own sites, and our staff assist landowners with managing litter on third party sites where appropriate. Local Authorities and individual land owners are likely to incur their own costs in relation to litter within the National Park area.

The National Park Authority's Land Operations staff clear litter as do the Ranger service throughout the season as part of their wider roles, however the costs of staff resources specifically used in relation to waste disposal are not recorded.

Volunteers have always been active in clearing litter in the National Park. Litter management accounted for 3% of general volunteering time with 217hrs recorded. During 2019/2020 there were 11 days allocated for volunteer litter picking, this provided 83 places, of which 35 were taken up. 27 individual volunteers were involved, 9 park staff and 1 partner. The amount of employed staff time used to coordinate litter picking volunteering opportunities is not recorded.

The National Park Authority does not always incur any costs in relation to stereotypical flytipping cases because the clean-up costs are the responsibility of the landowner. We do not record the

### **LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

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cost of clearing up abandoned campsites, unless the case is being reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Most abandoned campsites are cleared by the National Park Authority Ranger Service, however there are some landowners who have fishing interests and have historically cleared abandoned campsites.

Details of costs associated with waste disposal in the National Park in 2019/20 as recorded in our financial accounts are as follows:

<b>Equipment/service</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Bin liner	£ 108.40
Bin stickers	£477.60
Flytipping on NPA owned site	£150.00
'Big belly' bin maintenance	£ 428.16
Litter picking, collection & bin services	£12,597.73
Node cleaning	£ 1,500.00
Refuse collection	£ 11,574.94
Skip provision	£ 2,988.00

**“The amount, if any, spent in the last financial year on public information campaigns or advertising related to litter and cleanliness.”**

The National Park Authority ran a human waste campaign in 2019. The social media costs for this campaign were:

Human Waste Launch: Traffic (Facebook)	£200
Human Waste Campaign Launch (Twitter)	£50
Human Waste Video (Facebook)	£100
Human Waste Video (Instagram)	£100
Human waste video (Twitter)	£50
<b>Total</b>	<b>£500</b>

Additional costs for the human waste trial were as follows:

<b>Human Waste Trial other costs</b>	
Trowels	£340.02
Photoshoots	£ 327.00
Deep clean permit areas pre trial	£1,188.00
Bin clearance	£1,152.00
Bins for trial	£ 266.40
Bags	£ 435.71
Vinyls	£ 542.40

Advertisements were also run in 2019 to encourage responsible camping:

- Camping Byelaws in place (Facebook) £29.16
- Respect Your Park - responsible camping video (Twitter) £20.00

The National Park Authority does not record the costs associated with staff time spent on social media campaigns and posts that were issued but not boosted monetarily. In addition, our Rangers

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deliver litter prevention messaging throughout the season, the staff costs associated with this topic through this work are not documented.

**“The number of times in the past year that discarded needles or syringes have been found in or reported to the park.”**

The National Park Authority does not keep records of individual items found while litter clearing. There is some anecdotal information to suggest a very low level of such items have been found by Rangers, but no actual data is recorded. There was no mention of syringes in feedback from volunteers or task leaders involved in litter picking activities.

**“The number of times in the past year that park employees or a representative of the park has reported an incident of littering, fly-tipping or illegal camping to police.”**

The National Park Authority is one of a number of specialist reporting agencies who are able to report directly to the Procurators Fiscal on the specific pieces of legislation they are empowered to enforce. As such, we are not required to and did not report any cases through Police Scotland last year.

In relation to the cases reported directly by the National Park Authority to the Fiscal, the following is a breakdown of the charges reported in calendar year 2019:

- Littering = 0
- Flytipping = 7
- Camping without authorisation = 7

Please note there is no specific charge of illegal camping, however the byelaws that best fit and have been used to answer your enquiry are outlined below:

### **Unauthorised Camping**

(6) It shall be an offence for a person to:

(a) set up, use or occupy a tent, wigwam or bivouac at any time; or

(b) set up, use or occupy overnight any other form of shelter (other than an umbrella) within a **Management Zone** unless they have been authorised to do so by **the Authority** under byelaw 11

It may also be helpful for you to be aware that the four local authorities within the National Park area also have enforcement powers regarding flytipping and may be recording incidents and carrying out enforcement.

Yours sincerely

**Governance and Legal Team**  
**Loch Lomond and 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.

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- 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](mailto: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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info)  
E-mail: [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info)

Online appeal portal: [www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal)

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