



Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority  
Carrochan  
Carrochan Road  
Balloch  
G83 8EG

27<sup>th</sup> August 2021

FOI Ref: 2021/018

## **REQUEST UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002**

We refer to your request for information, received by email on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Your specific requests and the Park Authority's response are provided below.

### **“What boats do the authority have on its lochs? “**

The Park Authority currently has three patrol boats on Loch Lomond and one maintenance boat, we have no boats on other lochs in the National Park.

### **“in the event of of incident on any of its lochs what is the parks protocol?”**

The Park Authority is not the emergency rescue boat for Loch Lomond, we are part of a multi-agency incident response plan for responding to incidents on Loch Lomond. The incident response plan is co-ordinated by Police Scotland.

In relation to the other lochs within the National Park, the emergency services are responsible for responding to incidents. The Park Authority assist the emergency services where possible.

### **“What safety equipment is on all the parks lochs and waters?”**

There are currently 18 public rescue equipment (PRE) installations at 11 locations on sites owned or managed by the National Park Authority or close to some camping permit areas.

These installations include specific Loch Lomond location details, which also have grid reference and 'What3Words' information.

We also work with other public bodies, landowners and land managers to encourage the installation of suitable PRE at sites they own or manage within the National Park.

## **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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**“Has there been any more car licence granted for dredging?”**

The Park Authority has not applied for any further car licences for dredging. SEPA are responsible for issuing and holding information on CAR licenses. Accordingly, we have to advise you under section 17(1)(b) of the Act, that there is no information held.

**“Around all beaches from Balloch and beyond is there any signs warning of deep water and drops within the water?”**

The Park Authority has installed water safety signage at some sites owned or managed by the National Park Authority or close to some camping permit sites. For example, in relation to Loch Lomond, there is deep water/sudden drop signage at Firkin Point and also at the Culag and Suie Field camping permit sites. Deep water and other hazard warning signage is installed at Luss Pier, Falls of Falloch and Tarbet Slipway. All signage and PRE that has been installed by the Park Authority has been done following a suitable assessment of the risks.

We are aware that other land owners/managers have installed warning signage at other sites at Loch Lomond, such as deep water signage at Drumkinnon Bay, installed by Lomond Shores.

New water safety campaign signs have been installed at Park Authority sites and other popular locations.

**“Is there any water exercises involving Lirb and all other services including s.o.r.t and fire and rescue. Coastguard etc. When was the last training session?”**

We work closely with the Loch Lomond Rescue Boat and have undertaken and participated in combined water safety exercises in previous years. Earlier this year a Partnership Approach to Water Safety (PAWS) initiative was set up for partner agencies in West Dunbartonshire including the local authority, emergency services, and agencies including Scottish Water and Scottish Canals. This initiative has also been rolled out in Argyll & Bute, and Stirling and Clackmannanshire.

The PAWs group is working on regular desktop exercises, which are communication exercises specifically targeting response coordination. Practical training sessions are also underway, the first of these sessions took place on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

**“At present rnli is teaching kids in schools water safety. Would you welcome water safety and survival part of the swimming lessons currently provided by schools and would you further welcome first aid also part of the schools water safety from p1 to s4”****“Would you be willing to put what three words signs in regular areas of the park?”**

**“Would you also welcome a trauma unit and helipad at the grass area of Duncan Mills slip to assist landing of helimed and our local Medi team and train staff or employ paramedic staff or welcome a company to teach advanced first aid frec 2 to staff”**

The three questions referred to above are not requests for information under Freedom of Information legislation. We have, however, provided some further information below which we hope is of assistance:

**Teaching water safety** – the Park Authority is supportive of water safety and first aid being taught in schools. Our Rangers deliver water safety education to schools and groups, and arrange events when resource is available. Rangers work with the RNLI and other emergency services to host water safety awareness events where possible. Three pop up events have been held this year.

**Signage** – the Park Authority has provided the PAWS groups examples of our upgraded PRE and signage and we understand that other members are keen to adopt a similar approach in relation to the land they own / manage.

The water safety advice on our website includes information about the What3words app which visitors can download. In addition to place name and grid reference number, 'What3Words' information is prominently positioned at all of our PRE installations and this is something that we are promoting to other land owners/managers via the PAWS groups.

**Trauma Unit / Helipad** – this question would be better responded to by the emergency services. The emergency services and Loch Lomond Rescue Boat provide advanced medical attention to casualties on Loch Lomond.

Yours sincerely

## **Information Management 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.
- 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

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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](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)