



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

Ref: 2024-035
Date: 27 August 2024

Dear

REQUESTS UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2004

We refer to your email of 29 July 2024 in which you have requested access to information held by the National Park Authority. Please note that parts (1) and (2) of your request have been processed under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, while parts (3) and (4) have been processed under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004.

Your Request

As part of the Partnership Plan LLTNP published a Visitor Estimate of 4m visitor days, which has been repeated by LLTNP spokespeople. I believe this is a substantial under-estimate; road traffic estimates and parking figures at Lomond Shores and Luss suggest numbers of visitors double that. Please could you provide

- 1. Details of the surveys and data sources that were used to obtain this figure*
- 2. The methodology used to turn this data into an estimate*
- 3. Any report on the impact of increasing cruise traffic on Greenock on visitor numbers at key honeypot destinations*
- 4. The variance associated with the estimate and any Risk Analysis undertaken around that variance.*

There should have been an analysis that examined the impact on Climate (and Diversity) targets of increases in visitor and vehicle numbers. I should be grateful for a copy of that analysis and any response or reaction to the data that suggests vehicle numbers on the A82 reached 2030 forecasts last year.

Our Response

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

t: 01389 722600 f: 01389 722633 e: info@lochlomond-trossachs.org w: lochlomond-trossachs.org

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- (1) Page 77 of our Partnership Plan for 2024-2029 states that “*approximately four million visitors come to the National Park each year*”. For the purposes of this response, we have assumed that this is the estimate to which you are referring.

Our literature has referenced this estimate for several years, and we are confident that it was based on reliable data sources and methodology that make it the most credible figure available. However, we no longer hold the specific data or detail on the methodology that was used for its calculation. We therefore advise you under section 17 of FOISA that the information you have requested is not held. Please note that, in recognition of the need to refresh this estimate and to establish a methodology that will allow for a consistent approach to our annual calculation of this figure, we have commissioned new research and are currently awaiting its finalisation. We would expect to be able to share this information within the next six months.

- (2) As above.
- (3) In accordance with Regulation 10(4)(a) of the EIRs, we inform you that the National Park Authority does not hold the information you have requested.
- (4) In accordance with Regulation 10(4)(a) of the EIRs, we inform you that the National Park Authority does not hold the information you have requested.

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:

Information Manager
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