

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

Email: [REDACTED]
Ref: FOI 2025-032
Date: 05 September 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 and THE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2004

Thank you for your request for access to information held by the National Park Authority, which we received by email on the 09 August 2025. We have carefully considered each part of your request and provided our response below. Please note that parts 1-6 of your request have been processed under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, while parts 7 and 8 have been processed under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004.

Your Request

- 1. Please can you confirm how many staff are on your payroll and the cost per year?*
- 2. Please can you confirm how much trustees have claimed in expenses for the last five years, if it can be split into years that would be great?*
- 3. Please can you confirm if members and employees are asked to provide information to you of any second jobs or conflict of interests?*
- 4. Please can you confirm if you have a transparency policy in place, about funding you receive? Is this information made available to members of the public via your website?*
- 5. Please can you confirm if you have a whistle blowing/freedom to speak policy in place, and whether there are a formal record kept of the complaint, and the action taken?*
- 6. Please can you confirm how much money you have received from the major water companies in the last five years – United Utilities, Anglian Water, Severn Trent, Yorkshire Water, Southern Water, Southwest Water, Wessex Water, and Northumbria Water? Please can this be separated into years as well? Can you confirm if any funding was used for a specific purpose or project and if so what it was used for? Is any of your pension funds also invested in these water companies as above?*
- 7. How many new homes/ developments domestic and commercial have been granted in the park in the last ten years?*

8. *Do you consider when looking at planning the Environment Agency growth models and information they have on the sewage network and pollution?*

Response under FOISA

We have processed parts 1 to 6 of your request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

Our response to each of these parts is provided below:

1. For the most recently completed financial year, 2024/2025, the figures you have requested are as follows:
 - Headcount as of 01/04/24 – 188 (FTE 167.42)
 - Headcount as of 31/03/25 – 215 (FTE 190.15)
 - Total cost for 2024/25 financial year - £7,284,958

For your information, the equivalent figures for previous financial years are published in our Annual Report and Accounts. These reports are publicly available for download at the following page of our website:

<https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/park-authority/publications/annual-reports-accounts/>

2. Where you refer to 'Trustees' in this part of your request, we are assuming that you mean to refer to members of the National Park Authority's Board.

On this basis, for the most recently completed financial year (2024/2025), the figure you have requested is £5,528.

The equivalent figures, for the previous financial years you have asked about, are published in our Annual Report and Accounts. These reports are available for download at the following page of our website:

<https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/park-authority/publications/annual-reports-accounts/>

Under section 25(1) of FOISA, as the information for prior financial years is reasonably accessible to you via other means, we are not required to provide it to you in response to this request.

3. Yes. Employees are required to notify the Park Authority if they undertake secondary employment. All employees and Board Members are asked to complete a 'Declaration of Interests' form, where they are asked about any potential conflicts of interest. This is then analysed by the employee's Line Manager and managed accordingly. A review of all declarations is completed on an annual basis. Information on Related Party Transactions for our Executive Team and Board Members is published in our Annual Report and Accounts.

4. We do not have a documented 'transparency policy' regarding funding we receive. However, the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 requires us to "*prepare for each financial year an account of the authority's expenditure and receipts in accordance with directions issued by the Scottish Ministers*". As such, information about our funding is detailed in our Annual Report and Accounts, which can be downloaded at the following page of our website:

<https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/park-authority/publications/annual-reports-accounts/>

5. A Whistleblowing policy is in place for all staff. We have attached a copy of this policy for your reference. The number of whistleblowing instances recorded by the National Park Authority each year is reported in our Annual Report and Accounts. There have been no such instances in the last seven years. However, where such reports are received, appropriate records shall be created and retained in line with our records retention policies.
6. We can confirm that the National Park Authority has not received any funds from the water companies that you have referenced within the last 5 years. Our pension provider has confirmed that our pension fund is not currently invested in any of these companies.

Response under the EIRS

Parts 7 and 8 of your request relate to environmental information. As such, it is appropriate for us to apply the exemption at section 39(2) of FOISA and instead process these parts of your request under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (the EIRs).

This is a technical, administrative exemption. In practice, processing these parts of your request under the EIRs instead of FOISA has no impact on our ability or obligation to provide the information you have requested.

Our responses to these parts of your request are provided below:

7. The requested information is detailed in our Annual Monitoring Reports, which contain information on residential and other approvals. You can download these reports by visiting the following page of our website:

<https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/planning/planning-guidance/local-development-plan/local-development-plan-monitoring-and-audits/>

Under regulation 6(1)(b) of the EIRs we are not required to provide information if it is already publicly available and accessible in another form or format.

8. The Environment Agency covers England and Wales. As a public authority in Scotland, we do not refer to their data.

Right to Review

If you are unhappy with our response, you can ask us to review the way we have handled your request. More information on your right to review is provided in the attached sheet.

Yours sincerely

Information Management
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority