



Mr N Kempe
nickkempe1@gmail.com
EIR Ref 2015-014

19th February 2016

Dear Mr Kempe

Thank you for your request for information, received by email on 21st December 2015. We have applied the exemption under Section 39(2) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 as we have determined that the information sought in your request is environmental information. We are therefore handling your request under the terms of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs). In this case the public interest in maintaining this exemption and in dealing with the request in line with the requirements of the EIRs outweighs any public interest in disclosing the information under FOISA.

Is it correct that gates were not originally planned for the harbour car park on the Invertrossachs Rd on the road by Loch Venachar House? (There were no gates on the original maps agreed as part of the Five Lochs Visitor Management Plan)

Gates were not on the outline concept design drawings which are shown in the 5 Lochs Visitor Management Plan 2012. They were introduced to the layout as the detailed design matured. This is a consideration in all car park provision made by the National Park Authority.

Who authorised the decision to install gates?

The decision to install gates was an internal decision by officers. This decision follows the same approach as that taken at other visitor sites that have been improved by the Park Authority, including Loch Lubnaig North and South, Milarrochy Bay, North Loch Venachar and Firkin Point.

Were there any representations from Board Members or members of the public about this and if so what?

There were no representations from Board Members or members of the public requesting the installation of gates. As a courtesy, local residents, who include a member of the Park Authority Board, were informally consulted on the designs before the formal application process and some made comments about the appearance of the gates and their visual impact.

Please provide any written information the Park possesses about the basis for this decision to install gates at the entrance to these car parks, including the change in layout of the two car parks.

The Park Authority has no written information about the basis of the decision to install gates at the car parks. As explained above, the decision to install gates was made as work on the design of the car park layout progressed and the design details were finalised, which included changes in layout to the car parks.

LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

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The inclusion of gates at this location was based on previous experience of the Park Authority in developing other sites at different locations in the National Park as part of our visitor management plans as stated above.

As part of the development of the layout of the two car parks, the Park Authority met with Stirling Council Roads Department who confirmed that they had no major concerns with the road access/egress for both car park sites. Please see attached Appendix A for a summary of the discussions following a meeting with Stirling Council Roads Department. They also confirmed that they would not accept a parking layout that allowed vehicles to reverse out onto the carriageway, and the Park Authority wanted to ensure a safe turning area to avoid cars reversing onto a National Cycle Route.

Engineering problems were identified with the gradient and in respect of tree protection areas, which required some minor changes in layout to the car parks.

What was the cost of installing the gates for this and the other site?

There is no breakdown available of the specific cost associated with installing the gates, however the costs of the gates themselves was £915 each.

Please provide me with any information the Park holds about flooding on the loch shore by the areas now covered by the two car parks it has created on south Loch Venachar.

The Park Authority does not hold information about flooding on the loch shore at the location on the car parks on south Loch Venachar. The Park Authority uses data that is available to view on the SEPA web site available at <http://map.sepa.org.uk/floodmap/map.htm> to assist with the consideration of potential flooding issues.

Please provide me with any information the Park holds about traffic on the Invertrossachs Rd between Loch Venachar House and the end of the public road by the Invertrossachs estate.

Information held about traffic in this location is in the form of data collected from our Ranger patrols. The Park Authority sent you Ranger Patrol records on 6th January 2016 relating to Loch Venachar from 2012 to 2015. Traffic management was also highlighted in the 5 Lochs Visitor Management Plan.

Please provide me with any information or recommendations from the police which the Park holds in relation to management of traffic on this stretch of road.

The Park Authority has no information or recommendations from Police Scotland in relation to traffic management on this stretch of road.

Following the Five Lochs Visitor Management stakeholder meeting on 29th April, please provide any written information the Park holds about discussions, representations or decisions about whether to lock the gates at the two car parks adjacent and just along the road from Loch Venachar House?

The Park Authority has no information held about discussions, representations or decisions about whether to lock the gates at the two car parks adjacent and just along the road from Loch Venachar House.

Please also provide any information the Park holds about when the gates to these two car parks may have been locked between 30th April and 18th December 2015 (including any records of people being paid or volunteering to do this even if it not known for certain whether the person actually locked the gates)?

No information is held, as the gates have not been locked by the National Park Authority to date.

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Please provide any information the Park holds on the cost of locking these gates.

No information held, see previous answer.

Please provide me with the dates of any meetings of the 5 Lochs Visitor Management stakeholder group following its meeting of 29th April 2015 (the date of the next meeting was not recorded in the minute of any meeting) and any papers or minutes pertaining to those meetings.

The most recent meeting of the 5 Lochs Visitor Management stakeholder group was held on 19th November 2015. The minutes are currently being prepared. No papers were presented other than the agenda which is attached.

Please explain changes to the ground vegetation at the Harbour car park and in particular why what was shown as a grass area by the boundary with Loch Venachar House (between the carpark and the fence) and the former jetty have now been planted with prickly native shrubs?

Who took this decision.

The National Park Authority is responsible for the design and construction of the car park. The planting of native shrubs was part of a site planting plan which included the introduction of native species to provide screening, habitat for wildlife and also to help manage visitor activity on the site.

Yours sincerely

Information Officer
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority

Review Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with this response, or the way in which the Authority has dealt with your request, you are entitled to ask the Authority to review its decision. Please note that in order for a review to take place you must:-

- Lodge a written request for a review within 40 working days of either the date on which you received a response from the University or the date by which you should have received a response under the terms of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004, whichever is the later.
- Include your name, address for correspondence, a description of the original request, and the reasons why you are dissatisfied; and

address your review request to the Director of Corporate Services:

Jaki Carnegie
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority
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Carrochan
Carrochan Road
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Please note that links provided to information available elsewhere are intended to assist you. Requests for information held by other public authorities, and any complaints regarding access to such information should be addressed to that authority. These review procedures relate only to information which is directly under the control of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority.

The review of your request 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 Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004, at:

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS
Tel: 01344 464 610
Website: www.itspublicknowledge.info
E-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

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