

How democracy in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park is being destroyed â?? the Sid Perrie story (2.5)

Description

From: [Heather Reid](#)
To: ["Alexander Perrie"](#)
Cc: ["claire.chapman@"](#); ["Colinlee@"](#); ["david.fettes@"](#); ["david@"](#); ["Hazel.Sorrell@west-dunbarton.gov.uk"](#); ["earlm@stirling.gov.uk"](#); ["maurice.corry@argyll-bute.gov.uk"](#); ["navidforoutan@"](#); ["rcjohnson@"](#); ["sarahdrmmnd@"](#); ["william.sinclair@argyll-bute.gov.uk"](#); ["ronni.erskine@"](#); ["C.J.Spray@"](#); ["TanShony.Paterson@argyll-bute.gov.uk"](#); ["Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot"](#); ["Ross.Greer.msp@parliament.scot"](#); ["jackie.baillie.msp@parliament.scot"](#); ["ministertorca@gov.scot"](#)
Subject: RE: Conflict of interest
Date: 26 August 2024 13:42:33

Dear Sid,

I, senior staff and our legal advisor have carefully considered the substance of your allegation. It is considered that your allegation against the Park Authority and its staff is unfounded. Further, it is not accepted in any way that the National Park Authority nor its staff have a conflict of interest in relation to the determining of the planning application in principle for development at West Riverside and Woodbank House (REF 2022/0157/PPP) by Flamingo Land Ltd.

Accordingly, the Report and Recommendation of the Park Authority's Director of Place will be published on 2nd September 2024 and the Board will proceed with its site visit, hearing and determination of that application on 16th September 2024.

Regards,

Heather

Heather Reid

Convener

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

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Email from Heather Reid, copying in board members, politicians and Scottish Ministers, responding to first email Sid Perrie sent on 26th August at 9.03

This email from Heather Reid, Convener of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority (LLTNPA), is not included in the Ethical Standards Commissioner's report into her complaint about six emails Sid Perrie sent between 26th and 28th August 2024 ([see here](#)) and ([here](#)). When Dr Reid submitted her complaint on 29th August, in an attempt to prevent Sid, the locally elected member for

Balloch, from attending the special board meeting on Flamingo Land, her complaint was not just about the content of his emails:

â??but also because who he has copied them to (variously Government Ministers, MSPs and the Community Council) making these statements public criticisms of the National Park Authority and in so doing revealing personal email addresses of Board membersâ?•.

So did Heather Reid also inform Ethical Standards Commissioner that she too had revealed the personal email addresses of Board Members to Ross Greer, Jackie Ballie and Scottish Ministers? If not, why not?

(NB. Contrary to what Heather Reid claimed in her complaint, Sid Perrie never actually copied Balloch and Haldane Community Council into any of these emails â?? his second email was addressed directly to them and they were not included in any other email).

I discovered this email after writing my first two posts in this series and while trying to make further sense of the evidence included in the report of the Ethical Standards Commissioner (ESC). I have been comparing the information provided by the LLTNPA in response to Sidâ??s Subject Access Request (SAR) with that in the ESCâ??s report and trying to fill in the gaps. (Under data protection laws people have a legal right to obtain the information an organisation holds about them by making a SAR). There are 536 pages of material, none of it in date order and all jumbled up, so this is a very time-consuming task.

Among the other information in the SAR, but not in the ESCâ??s report to the Standards Commission, is a letter to Heather Reid dated 19th December 2024 agreeing to investigate most of her complaints further. In it the ESC also stated they they did not intend to investigate two aspect of the complaint further. First, Heather Reidâ??s claim that Sid Perrie had breached Section 3.7 of the Code of Standards for Public Life by interfering in the operational management of the National Park â?? he clearly hadnâ??t as all six emails were addressed to Board Members not staff. Second, the ESC explains they have no remit over alleged breaches of data protection laws:

We also take this opportunity to refer you to the Information Commissioner's Office relative to your concerns about the unauthorised sharing of personal contact information in the Respondent's email to you of 26 August 2024 (09:03). This is because our office has no remit over consideration of GDPR legislation and its alleged breaches. The Information Commissioner's Office can be reached here: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/data-protection-complaints/>.

I don't know if Heather Reid has complained to the Information Commissioner's Office but if Sid breached data protection laws by copying in Scottish Ministers, Ross Greer MSP and Jackie Baillie MSP to his first email, then the email Heather Reid sent in response did so too!

This small example illustrates the deceit and hypocrisy behind Heather Reid's attempt to use data protection laws and the Code of Conduct for Board Members to prevent Sid Perrie, as the locally elected member for the Balloch area, from raising concerns about the planning process behind Flamingo Land. Like many other public authorities, the LLTNPA is now trying to weaponise rules, which were originally intended to protect the public, to shut down local democracy and put officials above the law.

Category

1. Loch Lomond and Trossachs

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