Email to Governance Manager Melanie Barbour dated 29/07/18 and copied to James Stuart, LLTNPA convener

Dear Melanie,

This is to let you know that I am going to appeal your review decision in this case but would also ask you to provide me now with the following pieces of research which I believe may exist from references made in the Organisational Update Reports you suggested I look through to identify such research.   The first public  Organisational Update report on the LLTNPA website is for March 2015 (there are none for 2014 and Board Papers before that date are no longer public) and none of the reports I list below have been published in the Audit/Research section under Plans and Publications and I have not been able to find any of them using the general search facility.  In addition, because only a verbal organisational update report was made in October 2015 and because what was said was not fully minuted its impossible to know if any further research was mentioned at that meeting.

1)  October 2015 update refers to two items:

a) 5.2.1 refers to a study that had been commissioned on the West Highland Way and which was due for completion in 2016 - please provide me with a copy

b) 5.2.5 refers to commencement of waterbus specific research (which the December Org Update says was completed) -  please provide it

2) December 2015:  the update states "work has focussed on creating a monitoring and research programme for visitor management information" - please could you confirm what research was agreed as part of that programme and provide me with this

3) March 2016:   references to the SEPA led Strathard Ecosystem project commissioning research:  please confirm whether or not LLTNPA commissioned research as part of this and if so provide it

4) October 2016 5.1 refers to £50k additional funding having been secured from the Destination Development Fundwhich "will be used to undertake research for monitoring the visitor experience impacts of Your Park and for tourism volume and value for monitoring for the next NPPP".  By December 2016 focus of research appears to have changed slightly to £research is being carried out in 2017 including a volume and value study of tourism economy of the Park and a non-visitor survey. The results of these studies will be available after summer 2017 and will complement the results of the visitor survey, providing valuable insights for Visitor Experience policy development and for businesses in the Park".  This then appears to have changed slightly at the June 2017 meeting (5.1) which does however say the results of the surveys would be available in the Autumn.   While its unclear what was actually commissioned  please provide the research paid for by this money

5) March 2017 refers to "habitat monitoring research" (4.3) - (this is repeated in Dec 2017 update)   please confirm whether this has ever been undertaken and if so provide it

6) Dec 2017 refers to camera trap wildcat surveys - please confirm if this was commissioned, ie if the LLTNPA made a financial contributiion to it, and if so provide it.

In addition to these references, which I believe fit my request for commissioned research, there are references to a number of other pieces of research or surveys which have been undertaken with Park backing or for the Park but for which no money has changed hands.  I think all these surveys should be published on the research section of your website.  If you agree with this in principle, I would be happy to give you time to make them public rather than submit another information request but if not, I would intend to submit another information request in the next few weeks.

I hope would hope that the LLTNPA might try and follow the example of the CNPA which is now establishing a properly co-ordinated research programme for the National Park and, like SNH, has been trying to make this information more transparent and available.  I would hope the list of things I have asked for here indicates that there is a need for the LLTNPA to do the same.

Yours Sincerely,

Nick Kempe