R Hill & Co

By email: request-201746-97eb7e8d@whatdotheyknow.com

3 April 2014
Our ref: SIR129774/A1247098

Dear R Hill & Co

Information Request – Suitable Alternatives to Shooting Barnacle Geese

Thank you for your information request which we received on 12 March. We have considered your request under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (‘the EIRs’).

You asked us for information relating to all other satisfactory goose scaring solutions that we assessed before granting a goose licence for a location in the Solway Firth.

The alternatives tried by the applicant before a licence was granted were as follows:

- Human presence in fields for up to four hours per day;
- Gas guns;
- Shooting to scare;
- Livestock presence in fields;
- Streamers; and
- Plastic bags on canes.

These alternatives were not considered to satisfactorily address the impact of the geese in that they did not prevent serious damage to crops and therefore a licence was granted to shoot a small number of birds.

How We Handled Your Request

We believe you have asked for environmental information as defined in the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (‘the EIRs’) so we are dealing with your request under those regulations. To be able to use the EIRs we have to apply an exemption under section 39(2) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (‘FOISA’). The Scottish Information Commissioner’s guidance recommends that public authorities apply this exemption to environmental information.

If you would like to find out more about the access to information legislation there is a guidance booklet available on the Scottish Information Commissioner’s website, http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/uploadedfiles/YRTK2012.pdf.
Review and Appeal

I hope this information meets your requirements but if you are dissatisfied with how we have responded to your information request, please write to us within 40 working days at Battleby, Redgorton, Perth, PH1 3EW or email us at foi@snh.gov.uk, explaining your concerns. Our Director of Policy and Advice, Ron MacDonald or his nominated delegate will carry out a review of our response and provide an outcome within 20 working days.

If you are not satisfied following this, you can make an appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. The Scottish Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS
Telephone: 01334 464610

http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/

Yours sincerely

Rhoda Davidson

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Information Officer
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