

Our reference: FOI 22/10

25 February 2022

Dear Mr Tetris,

Thank you for your email of 21 February 2022 in which you asked:

From time to time, Richmond Park is closed to the public. For example, when deer culling occurs.

More recently, the park was closed on 18-20 February 2022 due to storm damage.

On what authority is the park so closed, given that there are public rights of way (ie public footpaths) that go through the park? Can the public still access such rights of way during the periods of closure?

The authority to temporarily close Richmond Park derives from the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's general powers of management under the 1851 Crown Lands Act. The Royal Parks (TRP) has been contracted to carry out day to day management of the Royal Parks estate in London by the Secretary of State. The Royal Parks and Other Open Spaces Regulations 1997 in turn provide that no person, without the written permission of the Secretary of State, shall be in a Park, or any part thereof, at a time when that Park or part thereof is not open to the public. In the specific events raised in your enquiry, closure is consistent with and to facilitate fulfilment of the overriding consideration for "safe" use of the Park including the relevant footpaths within its curtilage.

I hope that this information satisfies your request.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original email, quoting the reference at the top of the page and should be addressed to:

FOI Officer
The Royal Parks
The Old Police House
Hyde Park
London
W2 2UH



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Email records@royalparks.org.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision, quoting the reference at the top of the page. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Gavin Gribbon | Records Manager | records@royalparks.org.uk
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