



## Scottish Natural Heritage Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

All of nature for all of Scotland  
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

Mr Gordon C. Stalker

By email: [request-382002-8e5949fa@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-382002-8e5949fa@whatdotheyknow.com)

Our Ref: SIR144337/A2197016

9 February 2017

Dear Mr Stalker

### Information Request – Kinloch Castle, Isle of Rum

Thank you for your information request, which we received on 16 January. We have considered your request under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 ('the EIRs').

You asked us for information about Kinloch Castle on the Isle of Rum, specifically:

1. I note recent newspaper articles e.g. The Times (Jan 12) regarding demolition of Kinloch Castle unless £20 million can be found to save it. I have read your report SNH03/2/2 Kinloch Castle Rum-Proposal for future use. However, this report is dated 2003 and I would be grateful if you would provide me with any more up to date documentation.
2. I would also like to see the legal document probably dated around 1957 by which the island (excluding Harris graves) was left to The Nature Conservancy and how it came about that the castle came into the possession of SNH and not The National Trust for Scotland, who would be a more appropriate and sympathetic owner?

We have carried out a detailed search of the information we hold, and we have responded to each part of your request in turn.

1. Two more recent reports about Kinloch Castle are attached along with this letter. The reports are:
  - Options for the future for Kinloch Castle: An outline appraisal of options to secure a future for Kinloch Castle on the Isle of Rum, October 2013, Scottish Natural Heritage
  - Kinloch Castle Feasibility Report, April 2016, Savills

We have marked out (redacted) the signatures in the Savills report because they are personal data, and release of this data into the public domain in response to an access to information request would breach the Data Protection Act 1998. We are therefore withholding the information under EIRs Regulation 11(2) (Personal data).

There is also a recent Board Paper, Proposal for a Sustainable Future for Kinloch Castle, November 2016, available on our website:

<http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/A2131212.pdf>

2. We have attached a copy of the Disposition by The Trustees of Sir George Bullough in favour of The Nature Conservancy.

Sir George Bullough died in 1939, leaving the castle and island in trust with his wife Lady Monica Bullough. Lady Monica thereafter lived in the castle off and on, then sold it (island, castle and contents) on to the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC) in 1957 for £26,000, roughly £1 per acre. Rum then became a National Nature Reserve. NCC later combined with the Countryside Commission for Scotland to form Scottish Natural Heritage.

### **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 must 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 and handle requests under the EIRs.

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/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.aspx?IID=5487&SID=5024>.

### **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 explaining your concerns. You can contact us at Battleby, Redgorton, Perth, PH1 3EW or email us at [foi@snh.gov.uk](mailto:foi@snh.gov.uk). Our Director of Policy and Advice, Andrew Bachell, or his nominated delegate, will carry out a review of our response and contact you with their findings 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

Online appeal service: [www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal)  
Website: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/>

Telephone: 01334 464610

Yours sincerely

***Rhoda Davidson***

**Rhoda Davidson**  
Information Officer  
[FOI@snh.gov.uk](mailto:FOI@snh.gov.uk)