



Scottish Natural Heritage Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

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Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

M Thane

By email: request-380136-50da83d8@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Ref: SIR144209/A2211983

23 February 2017

Dear M Thane

Information Request – Manx Shearwater and Brown Rat Data from the Isle of Rum

Thank you for your information request, which we received on 5 January. We have considered your request under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 ('the EIRs').

Your request

You asked us to provide the following information:

- "1) a project carried out by Wildlife Management International Limited from 2006 - 2010 on monitoring rat abundance at the shearwater colony.
- 2) A project carried out by Food and Environment Health Agency/Animal and Plant Health Agency from 2010-2014 on the role of rat predation in determining shearwater breeding success.
- 3) A PhD funded by SNH

Final reports for each of these 'projects' would be of use and therefore assumably easy to provide?
- 4) An SNH rat monitoring project started in 2016.

Details of the results of this and a methodology summary would be appreciated.
- 5) Two surveys carried out at the shearwater colony; one in 1995 and one in 2000.

I have no need for this information as it is openly available.
- 6) Ongoing monitoring of the breeding success of the colony.

A simple summary of the breeding figures would suffice here. Assumably, these can be derived from the local Isle of Rum staff or perhaps exist in some format that could be easily amended?

If there is a way to search tender documents via the SNH website, then I am happy to attempt to do this. I am particularly interested in the amount of funding afforded to Seabird monitoring, specifically Manx Shearwaters for the years 2006-2016."

Our response

Please find attached the following information:

- FERA Contract 30516 Brown Rats and Breeding 201 - 13 documents
- Rum productivity data 1995-2014
- Manx shearwater productivity results 2016
- Rum 2015 Productivity Monitoring - Hallival
- Shearwater Productivity Reports 2006 - 13
- Statement of Requirements – PHD: The Ecology of Brown Rats on Rum
- Tracking Plate Methodology - Norway rat monitoring protocol for the Isle of Rum - May 2016
- Tracking Plate Record Sheet August 2016
- Tracking Plate Record Sheet June 2016
- WMIL Contract 17412 Brown Rats
- WMIL Contract 27397 Rat Abundance

The PhD work has been carried out and written up but the final report has not completed the academic review process. The Statement of Requirements for the PHD is included in the list above and its cost is included in the amount set out below.

We were able to find records of payments made by SNH for manx shearwater/rat monitoring on Rum to the total value of **£238,143**. This figure may not be absolute total because it does not include payments made through other funding mechanisms, for example if shearwaters on Rum were included in a larger bird survey, or if SNH supported a partnership project by paying 'in kind' costs such as staff wages.

You will see that some information has been blanked out (redacted) from the attachments. This information names private individuals so we consider it to be personal data. We are not releasing this information to you under Regulation 11(2) (Personal data of which the applicant is not the data subject) of the EIRs because release would breach the Data Protection Act 1998.

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. 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

Website: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/>

Telephone: 01334 464610

Yours sincerely

Jennifer Ryles

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Information Officer
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