

Mr Gordon C Stalker

By email: request-533287-0a14fcda@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Ref: SIR153236/A2810998

18 December 2018

Dear Mr Stalker

Information Request – Montrose Beach Study Stakeholders Group Meeting, 12 November 2018

Thank you for your information request, which we received on 19 November. We have considered your request under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 ('the EIRs').

Your Request

"I note you were invited to the above meeting and would be grateful if you can provide minutes of the same as this is an environmental matter of major public concern. Other public bodies invited were Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), Marine Scotland and Angus Council. I have also sent Freedom of Information enquiries to them."

Our Response

We have carried out a detailed search of the information we hold, and we do not hold any minutes of the Montrose Beach Study Stakeholders Group Meeting on 12 November 2018. To our knowledge, no minutes have been produced. I therefore need to explain that this means that EIRs Regulation 10(4)(a) (Information not held) applies to your request on this occasion.

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@nature.scot. We will carry out a review of our response and contact you with our 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

Rhoda Davidson

Rhoda Davidson
Information Officer
FOI@nature.scot