



Scottish Natural Heritage Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

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

Mr Michael Grant

By email: request-429986-9ec59b30@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Ref: SIR147414/A2400755

27 September 2017

Dear Mr Grant

Information Request – Dr Paul O’ Donoghue

Thank you for your information request, which we received on 6 September. We have considered your request under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (‘the EIRs’).

Your Request

“Could you please tell me if Dr Paul O'Donoghue was ever paid by yourselves to undertake Scottish wildcat genetic work?

If he was ever paid, would it be possible to tell me how much, and what was the basis of the contract, please?

Did Paul O'Donoghue provide you with the genetic research that he was paid to perform?”

Our Response

We have carried out a detailed search of the information we hold, and our response is set out below.

We have not made any payments to Dr Paul O'Donoghue as an individual.

In 2011/12 we did award a contract to the value of £5,778.00 to the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Chester (<https://www.chester.ac.uk/departments/biological-sciences>), for work on ‘Assessing the purity of the contemporary population of Scottish wildcats within the Cairngorms National Park’. The contract was paid in full, following verbal assurances that the work was being progressed but we have, so far, not received any output. SNH has made a number of attempts to establish when this work will be completed. Given the time that has elapsed since the contract was let, we do not know when, or if, it will be completed.

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. 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

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Information Officer
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