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Director of Environment and Forestry
Dr Bob McIntosh

Our ref: 247492

29 August 2014

Dear Mr Fuller

CLARIFICATION ON A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: PERMISSIONS GRANTED AT STRATHALLAN ESTATE

Thank you for your request for details on the above dated 23 August 2014. Under the Open Information Legislation we are required to answer your request within 20 working days.

Your question asked, 'Please provide all copies of all correspondence between the Forestry Commission and Strathallan Estate (or connected persons) relating to permissions granted by the Forestry Commission to Strathallan Estate for works related to removal of trees or wood at Strathallan Castle or related woodlands or farms. Specifically and correspondence, e mails, records relating to work that Estate has applied for and obtained a consent from the Forestry Commission (Sid House, Perth office) to form private ways within the Estate allegedly for the purposes of accessing timber'.

We want to be as open as possible in answering requests, and to help people obtain the information they are looking for. Unfortunately I cannot identify all the information you have requested from the details you have provided.

The best way that we can help you is therefore to ask you to consider whether you could clarify your request to focus on the precise information that you are seeking.

To help with this I have outlined some questions:

- Do you wish to see information relating to the activities of tree felling (ie the harvesting operations)?

- Or, do you wish information related to the extraction (ie the removal) of the timber and the infrastructure associated with that operation?

In some circumstances we may need to seek the agreement of other parties in relation to the release of information and will reflect any obligations in accordance with our duties under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

If you are unable or unwilling to narrow down your request we will, of course, consider it in accordance with our obligations under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. However we wanted to give you an opportunity to reconsider your request and describe more precisely the information you wish to have.

In some circumstances a fee may be payable and if that is the case I will let you know. A fees notice will be issued to you, and you will be required to pay it before I will proceed to deal with your request.

Please note that if I do not receive appropriate clarification of your information requirements by 28 November, which is three months from the date of this letter, then I will consider your request closed.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Taylor
Head of Secretariat