



Scottish Natural Heritage Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

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

Mr Adrian Taylor

By email: request-479360-e706c5b9@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Ref: SIR150305/A2651560

18 July 2018

Dear Mr Taylor

Information Request – Strathbraan Licence

I am writing to you with the outcome of my review into our handling of your information request, reference SIR150305/A2651560

Your review request stated:

"Thanks very much for the information you sent regarding my FOI request regarding the 'Perthshire Raven Cull'

I was disappointed that the response was so heavily redacted making some of the e-mails included unreadable. Please can details be redacted (if they have to) more carefully and corrected and re-sent to me.

You have heavily redacted names of people and organisations making the request for the licence - This information should be available to the public as we need to know the background to why this licence was requested. From the information provide I doubt the Raven Cull would benefit Waders as mentioned but would only benefit grouse moor management.

Finally I requested the scientific evidence for the cull. From the documents provided I can see no scientific evidence to justify the cull. Can you send the scientific evidence as requested.

Please can I request an internal review of Scottish Natural Heritage's handling of my FOI request 'Perthshire Raven Cull' to address the above points and why a delay was required in providing this information."

Your request was for environmental information, and therefore was handled under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 ('the EIRs').

Scottish Natural Heritage, Strathallan House, Castle Business Park, Stirling, FK9 4TZ
Tel: 01786 450362 Fax: 01786 446885 <https://www.nature.scot/>

Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba, Taigh Shrath Alain, Pàirc Gnothachais a' Chaisteil, Sruighlea, FK9 4NF
Fòn: 01786 450362 Facs: 01786 446885 <https://www.nature.scot/>

Outcome

1. Redactions

I consider the redactions applied to be necessary in order to meet the requirements of the legislation in terms of EIR 10 (5)(f) given the evidence provided that the information was supplied voluntarily, that there was no other mechanism for SNH to secure the information, that the third party did not consent to disclosure of the information, that the third party's interests would be harmed by disclosure and that this harm outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

I consider the redactions applied to be necessary in order to meet the requirements of the legislation in terms of EIR 11 (2) and compliance with the Data Protection Act given the circumstances at the time of responding to the request including the death threat made to the SNH Chair.

2. Scientific information

I consider that all the information on the scientific background to the cull has been provided including internal and external correspondence.

3. Delay in response

In this case, your request was received on April 21st and you were notified by email of the need for an extension to deal with your request on May 22nd, extending the deadline to 20th June. Under section 7 of the EIRs, an extension can be justified if the FoI request is both voluminous and complex.

In my view, your request of April 21st can be considered complex and voluminous because of the scale of the information requested and the need to redact the information to meet the requirements of the legislation.

Appeal

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of this review, 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

If you are not satisfied with the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, you can appeal further to the Court of Session.

Yours sincerely

Ross Johnston

Ross Johnston
Head of Operations