



## Scottish Natural Heritage Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

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

Mr Joshua Allsopp

By email: [request-482634-76881d38@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-482634-76881d38@whatdotheyknow.com)

Our Ref: SIR150983/A2671307

9 July 2018

Dear Mr Allsopp

### **Review of SNH Response to Information Request – Strathbraan Licence**

I am writing to you with the outcome of my review into our handling of your information request, reference SIR150467/A2658824.

Your review request stated:

“Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.

I am writing to request an internal review of Scottish Natural Heritage's handling of my FOI request 'Strathbraan Raven Cull'.

Disappointingly your organisation has failed to respond to a simple information request within the timeframe set out by law.

I have now escalated this and the individual responsible to the appropriate authority and I urge an internal review.

This conduct is totally unacceptable from a public authority and must be investigated fully.”

Your request was for environmental information, and therefore was handled under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 ('the EIRs'). You have asked that SNH reviews the failure to respond to your request “within the timeframe set out in law”. This timeframe is 20 working days from receipt of the request, plus up to a further 20 working days if an extension is applied under section 7(1) of the EIRs.

My review has looked at whether SNH was correct to use the provisions in Regulation 7 of the EIRs to extend the deadline for responding to your request.

Your request asked for information about the Strathbraan licence:

“In light of the recent raven cull license issued by your organisation in Strathbraan, I request access to the information submitted by the Strathbraan Community Collaboration for Waders that informed this decision in order for a scientifically-backed response.

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/>

I also request to see all and any correspondence and communications made by local grouse moor groups/owners/individuals in relation this matter. (If this is not available, then number of responses and action taken - ie meetings, responses, backing, etc - will suffice).

I wish to see what links SNH has with the Scottish grouse moor community through its members, funding, private backing, etc.

Finally, I request information on the number of successful prosecutions made with the involvement of SNH into the illegal persecution of raptor species on Scottish grouse moors, and any measures SNH is undertaking to end this illegal activity."

We received your request on 4 May. We wrote to you on 4 June to explain that we were extending the deadline for responding to your request by an additional 20 days, and that the revised deadline date was therefore 3 July. We responded to your request on 2 July.

Regulation 7(1) of the EIRs allows an authority to extend the time for complying with a request by up to 20 working days if the volume and complexity of the information covered by the request makes it impracticable to comply with the request within the original 20 working days.

## **Outcome**

In my view, taken as a whole, your request was both complex and voluminous. Therefore, I consider that it was reasonable for SNH to seek an extension to the deadline under Regulation 7(1) of the EIRs, and SNH has therefore responded to your request within the timeframe set out by 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](http://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