



Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority,
Carrochan,
20 Carrochan Road,
Balloch
G83 8EG

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
FOI Ref: 2024-045
Date: 18 October 2024

REQUEST UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

Thank you for your request for access to information held by the National Park Authority, which we received by email on 20 September 2024. Our response is provided below.

Your Request

On 9th September the tree zone, which is located on land the LLTNPA leases from Scottish Enterprise, announced it was shutting. You have previously provided me with a copy of the lease between the LLTNPA and the Gateway Centre and I would now be grateful if you could provide with me a copy of any lease/legal agreement between the LLTNPA and the Treezone together with any correspondence or other information the LLTNPA holds about the closure and the proposed sale of the business.

Our Response

I can confirm that the National Park Authority holds information that is within the scope of your request.

Correspondence and Information about the Closure and Proposed Sale of Treezone

As you may already be aware, the 'Treezone' business at Loch Lomond Shores is currently being marketed for sale by Business Partnership (Management) Limited. The current operators have outlined the rationale for this on their website:

"As owners, we have not made this decision lightly, but our adventure business has grown too big and complicated to run effectively and it is time to let this part of it go, in order to refocus on our operations elsewhere."

Link: <https://iye.scot/treezone-loch-lomond-to-close-doors-after-9-years/>

LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

National Park Headquarters, Carrochan, Carrochan Road, Balloch, G83 8EG Long: 4°34'24"W Lat: 56°00'12"N

t: 01389 722600 f: 01389 722633 e: info@lochlomond-trossachs.org w: lochlomond-trossachs.org

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In this context, we must inform you that the information we hold in relation to the closure and sale of the business is being withheld under section 33(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This section allows public authorities to withhold information if its disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person or organisation. Having carefully considered your request, we believe that it is appropriate to apply this exemption.

Public Interest Test in relation to re Section 33(1)(b)

In accordance with FOISA, we have considered the public interest test to assess whether the public interest in disclosing this information outweighs the public interest in upholding the exemption. While there is a strong public interest in transparency and accountability regarding public authority dealings, we have determined that, in this instance, the public interest in protecting the commercial interests involved, outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Sub-lease Agreement

The lease agreement between the National Park Authority and Wee Westie Limited, who are the operators of this business, is registered in the Books of Council and Session and is publicly available for purchase from the Registrars of Scotland. Therefore, under section 25 of FOISA, we are not obliged to provide a copy of this document, as it is otherwise accessible to the public. However, as a courtesy, and to facilitate transparency, I have attached a copy of the lease agreement for your reference. (Please note that I have redacted personal information – in line with the data protection legislation – and information detailing the agreed rental amount, in line with the above outlined considerations around commercial sensitivity.)

Right to Review

If you are unhappy with our response, you have the right to request a review. Further information on our review process, along with details about your right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner, is provided in the attached sheet.

Yours sincerely

Information Management
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority

Review Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with this decision, or the way in which the Authority has dealt with your request, you are entitled to require the Authority to review its decision. Please note that in order for a review to take place you are required to:

- Send your request for review in writing, setting out in full the reasons why you are requesting a review.
- Submit your review request within 40 working days of either the date on which you received a response from the Authority or the date by which you should have received a response under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, whichever is the later.
- address your review request to:

Information Manager
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority
National Park Headquarters
Carrochan
Carrochan Road
Balloch
G83 8EG
E-mail: info@lochlomond-trossachs.org

The review will be handled by staff who were not involved in the original decision. You will receive notice of the result of your review within 20 working days.

If you are not satisfied with the response to your request for review, you can contact the Scottish Information Commissioner, the independent body which oversees the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, at:

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS
Tel: 01334 464610
Website: www.itspublicknowledge.info
E-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info