



## For Information

**Title: Information Requests Update**

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### Purpose

This paper provides an update on the number of information requests, and key performance measures in meeting them, under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act / Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations arrangements since April 2021.

### Recommendations

The Audit and Risk Committee is asked to

- a) Note activity in this area and Authority performance
- b) Comment on breadth and depth of reporting for future updates

### Activity

1. As a public body, Cairngorms National Park Authority is subject to statutory requirements under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act (FOISA) and also the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations (EIR). This paper provides an update on the number of information requests under these provisions received in the last three financial years and the first quarter of 2023/2024, and performance in key measures. Previous years information is provided for benchmarking purposes. All figures relate to the time period in which the request was first received.
2. Since the beginning of Financial Year 2021/2022, two-thirds of requests have been classed as, and responded to under, FOISA legislation and the remainder under EIR arrangements. Total request numbers in 2022/2023 were significantly lower than those seen in the two previous years. The current financial year 2023/2024 is showing a similar lower level with six requests in Q1. Figures are summarised in Table 1.



**Table 1: Number of FOISA/EIR Requests Received, 2020/2021 to date**

Request Type	Financial Year 2020/2021	Financial Year 2021/2022	Financial Year 2022/2023	2023/2024 Q1
FOISA	21	25	20	6
EIR	14	17	8	0
FOISA/EIR			1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>% FOISA</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>100%</b>

- The most relevant performance measure for all requests is the proportion of requests met within statutory timescales (which may vary depending on the nature of the request). Cairngorms National Park Authority performance in responding to requests is generally very good and has been above 95% over the last 3 years. A performance benchmark figure<sup>1</sup> for all Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) in Scotland (2013-2020) is 85% for FOIs and 88% for EIRs.
- The number of internal review requests remains low, with only 2 in 2021/2022 and 1 in 2022/2023. The outcome of these were that 2 were not upheld and in one, further information was provided. No referrals to the Scottish Information Commissioner have occurred since the financial year 2020/2021. Figures are summarised in Table 2.

**Table 2: Performance Overview, 2020/21 to date**

All Requests	Financial Year 20/21	Financial Year 21/22	Financial Year 22/23	23/24 Q1
Met within Statutory Timescales	97%	95%	97%	100%
Internal Review Requests	2	2	1	0
Referral to Scottish Information Commissioner	1	0	0	0

- From the financial year 2021/2022 to date, the distribution of requests across the organisation is shown in Figure 1. Corporate Services encompasses the largest number and includes all corporate requests which cannot be categorised specifically to areas such as Human Resources, ICT which are shown individually. Planning &

<sup>1</sup> Source: [Scotland Information Request Statistics \(mysociety.org\)](https://mysociety.org)



Place and Conservation share a similar number of requests, which of course can vary significantly in breadth and complexity.

**Figure 1: Requests by Service Area, 2021/ 22 to date**

