

REASONS FOR NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance we are unable to provide all of the information you have requested regarding question 6. Therefore we are refusing your request under the exception at regulation 10(4)(a) of the EIRs.

This part of the request has been transferred to another public body, Forestry and Land Scotland to answer and they will be in contact with you directly.

QUESTIONS RAISED

1. *Please can you tell me the number of times Scottish Forestry asked applicants to apply for consent for forestry projects in areas that were below the thresholds it publishes in the years 2020; 2019 and 2018?*

Answer

One case:

Perth and Argyll Conservancy - Monikie - deforestation – 2018.

2. *Please can you tell me how many individual projects of any size or scope applied for consent in the years 2020; 2019 and 2018 and of these how many were granted consent?*

Answer

Applied for Consent in period 2018-2020:

Highland and Islands Conservancy - Cambusmore – applied 2019 Consent granted 2020;
Perth and Argyll Conservancy - Acha-Bheinn – Applied 2020 – not yet concluded.

3. *Please can you tell me how many Enforcement Notices were issued for any reason in the years 2020; 2019 and 2018 and how many of these resulted in a conviction?*

Answer

Enforcement notices issued:

Highland and Islands Conservancy - Carrbridge – 2019 - Notice complied with – no prosecution;
Perth and Argyll Conservancy - Monikie - 2018 – Notice complied with – no prosecution.

Forestry and Land Scotland's Knapdale land Management Plan (LMP) includes felling operations within SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) areas. Your published thresholds for applying for consent include SSSI's.

4. *Please can you tell me if Forestry and Land Scotland has applied for consent for felling operations within SSSI areas under the Knapdale LMP and if that consent application included an Environmental Impact Assessment?*

Answer

Scottish Forestry has not yet received the draft Land Management Plan for Knapdale. In process terms, it is currently at the Forestry and Land Scotland consultation stage. Scoping by Forestry and Land Scotland for the new plan was well underway at the beginning of 2020, with public meetings held and feedback incorporated into the concept. The concept information was put on the Forestry and Land Scotland website in January 2020, however with Covid-19 unfortunately the proposed time frame for submission of the draft plan by Forestry and Land Scotland to Scottish Forestry has been delayed.

The proposed felling permissions being sought under the new LMP for the Knapdale Woods SSSI areas (which form a long belt through the centre of the Knapdale LMP area) are a combination of Minimum Intervention, Long Term Retentions and Natural Reserves. The SSSI areas and those adjacent are planned to be maintained/restored to native/mixed broadleaves through the removal of exotic and invasive species. Approval for these works are required/obtained under the Operations Requiring Consent from Scottish Natural Heritage, which would be carried out when the draft plan is put forward for consultation to Scottish Natural Heritage by Scottish Forestry. An EIA screening would not be required as Forestry and Land Scotland do not propose to deforest these areas.

5. *If an Environmental Impact Assessment was produced for the presumed application above, please can I be sent a copy of it or, if this is not possible, where can I see a copy of it?*

Answer

Scottish Forestry have not yet received the draft LMP, however from the concept design there would be no requirement for EIA relating to the SSSI area as there are no operations envisaged which come under the requirements. You can find further information on the forestry EIA process at: <https://forestry.gov.scot/support-regulations/environmental-impact-assessment>

Forestry and Land Scotland's Knapdale Land Management Plan includes felling operations over many years.

6. *Please can you tell me how much income is expected to be derived solely from timber harvesting and associated sales from the Knapdale LMP in the years 2020 to 2025 and what proportion of this income will be derived solely from SSSI areas in the years 2020 to 2025?*

Answer

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