



Maritime & Coastguard Agency  
Spring Place  
105 Commercial Road  
Southampton  
SO15 1EG

Our Reference: FOI 3444

Mr Don Staniford  
Director of Scottish Salmon Watch  
By email to: [salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com](mailto:salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com)

26 March 2020

Dear Mr Staniford,

### **Request for Information Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004**

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 28 February 2020. Within your request, you asked:

*"Please provide information relation to salmon farms since 1 January 2019.*

*Please include correspondence with salmon farming companies, government agencies and other information.*

*Please include complaints from the public and internal emails (including with other government departments and other parties) in relation to salmon farms.*

*This would include any correspondence, emails and discussions in relation to various letters sent by Scottish Salmon Watch:*

*Letter dated 21 July 2019: <https://donstaniford.typepad.com/files/letter-re-protocol-guidelines-for-filming-at-salmon-farms-21-july-2019.pdf>*

*Letter dated 6 August 2019: <https://donstaniford.typepad.com/my-blog/2019/08/letter-to-police-scotland-re-protocol-for-filming-salmon-farms-.html>*

*Letter dated 12 September 2019: <https://donstaniford.typepad.com/files/letter-to-maritime-coastguard-agency-12-september-2019.pdf>*

*Letter dated 15 November 2019: <https://donstaniford.typepad.com/files/hse-letter-15-nov-2019.pdf>*

*And it would include any discussions of various blogs relating to salmon farms including:*

*21 August 2019: <https://donstaniford.typepad.com/my-blog/2019/08/mowis-breaches-of-health-safety-in-loch-linnhe-.html>*

*15 November 2019: <https://donstaniford.typepad.com/my-blog/2019/11/caught-on-camera-mowis-breach-of-health-safety-.html>*

*26 February 2020: <https://donstaniford.typepad.com/my-blog/2020/02/deaths-at-mowi-the-horror-story-continues.html>*"

## **Information held by the MCA**

I can confirm that we hold limited information that may be relevant to your request.

The MCA's Navigation Safety Branch is a statutory consultee to Marine Scotland within their marine licensing process for providing advice on matters concerning the safety of navigation. This includes all applications for fish farms which are received from Marine Scotland, not the fish farm companies themselves. The information we hold are the consultation responses to Marine Scotland.

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004**

The MCA has considered your request under the above legislation. It has concluded that the exemptions set out in Section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies to part of your request and that it should refuse to disclose the items referred to below.

Section 21(1) provides as follows:

### ***21 Information accessible to applicant by other means.***

*(1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.*

All correspondence with Marine Scotland on fish farm marine licence consultations, specifically MCA responses, are publicly available and can be found on Marine Scotland's website: <http://marine.gov.scot/>.

With regards to your letters dated 12 September 2019 and 15 November 2019, I believe you have had some recent correspondence with a member of MCA's Enforcement Unit who is looking into the matter and will be in contact with you again in the near future. Please find enclosed email correspondence you requested in this regard.

The MCA has no record of having received any other complaints, correspondence, emails from the public, salmon farming companies or other Government agencies concerning salmon farms. The MCA does not have any other internal emails of discussions on salmon farms or various blogs concerning salmon farms.

If you are unhappy with the way the Agency has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request, you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the FOIA Unit at:

The FOIA Unit  
Maritime & Coastguard Agency,  
Bay 3/08, Spring Place,  
105 Commercial Rd,  
Southampton,  
Hampshire.  
SO15 1EG.  
E-mail: InformationAssurance@mcga.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

In the event that you are not satisfied with the decision resulting from our internal review you can apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision notice. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Bell'.

**Richard Bell**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Navigation Safety**