



Don Staniford
salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com

Our Reference: 202200317900

20 September 2022

Dear Don Staniford,

REQUEST UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2004 (EIRs)

Thank you for your request dated 29 August 2022 under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

Your request

You asked for:

“Could you please provide information on the alleged incident at Bakkafrost Scotland's Portree salmon farm?
Marine Scotland is listed above on the distribution list. Presumably, if there has been a toxic leak, then Marine Scotland would have been notified and would have been involved.
Further information on this alleged pollution incident would be much appreciated.”

As the information you have requested is 'environmental information' for the purposes of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs), we are required to deal with your request under those Regulations. We are applying the exemption at section 39(2) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA), so that we do not also have to deal with your request under FOISA.

This exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption, because there is no public interest in dealing with the same request under two different regimes. This is essentially a technical point and has no material effect on

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the outcome of your request.

Response to your request

Marine Scotland Directorate were advised that a salmon farm feed barge had sunk in the vicinity of Bakkafrost Scotland's Portree site on 27 November 2021. Since the sinking, Marine Scotland Directorate has worked with partner organisations providing environmental advice.

The immediate response to the sinking saw the removal of both fuel & plastics from the sunken barge and the fish feed compartments were sealed to prevent the loss of fish feed to the marine environment prior to any wider salvage operations being taken forward.

Marine Scotland Directorate was recently made aware that low-levels of hydrogen sulphide had been detected at the salvage site. Bakkafrost Scotland confirmed on 15 September 2022 the safe and successful conclusion of gas venting from the sunken barge.

Marine Scotland Directorate continue to provide an advisory role helping to ensure that potential environmental impacts are considered and mitigated against where necessary as the salvage operations continue.

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your EIR request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to Annabel Turpie, The Director of Marine Scotland Directorate, Area 1B South, Victoria Quay, The Shore, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ or by emailing: Directormarinescotland@gov.scot. Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review and tell you the result, within 20 working days from the date when we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. More detailed information on your appeal rights is available on the Commissioner's website at: [Appealing to the Scottish Information Commissioner \(itspublicknowledge.info\)](https://itspublicknowledge.info).

Yours sincerely

Susan Burlinson
MPP : Licensing Operations

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