

South Lanarkshire Council submission of 8 June 2022

PE1812/FF: Protect Scotland's remaining ancient, native and semi-native woodlands and woodlands floors

I refer to your information request dated and received by the Council on 11 May 2022 in which you ask for the following information:

- The mechanisms in place for reporting a potential breach of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), including how such information is recorded and analysed
- The number of potential breaches of TPOs reported to you between 2012-22, broken down by year.
- The number of prosecutions you have undertaken in relation to Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) between 2012 – 2022; broken down by year; and
- The number of occasions where a breach of a TPO has not proceeded to prosecution, and the reasons for not pursuing prosecution.

Information provided

The Council can provide you with all the information that you have requested.

Response to Request(s)

- The mechanisms in place for reporting a potential breach of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), including how such information is recorded and analysed.

Response: Any potential breach of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) can be reported in a variety of ways:

a. By telephone to the Council's Customer Service Centre – calls would be put through to the Planning Service duty officer to deal with or would be recorded in the Customer Centre Service system and emailed to Planning to respond to if a customer requested a call back.

b. By email – email addresses of officers, enforcement officers and the service in general are available online. Any email submitted would be filed in our planning enforcement database and allocated to an officer to investigate.

c. By using our online form to report a potential breach of planning control:

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200145/planning_and_building_standards/321/planning_enforcement

Anything received via this system would be logged in our enforcement database and allocated to an officer to investigate.

- The number of potential breaches of TPOs reported to you between 2012 - 22, broken down by year.

2012 – 2

2013 – 0

2014 – 1

2015 – 0

2016 – 2

2017 – 0

2018 – 0

2019 – 0

2020 – 1

2021 – 1

2022 - 0

- The number of prosecutions you have undertaken in relation to Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) between 2012 – 2022; broken down by year;

Response: No prosecutions were undertaken in relation to TPOs between 2012 – 2022.

- The number of occasions where a breach of a TPO has not proceeded to prosecution, and the reasons for not pursuing prosecution.

Response: None of the cases have proceeded to prosecution as either agreement was reached to plant replacement trees or it was deemed that the works that had been carried out were not significant enough to merit pursuing to prosecution.