

Fife Council submission of 8 June 2022

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

I am responding to your letter dated 11 May 2022 to Fife Council's Chief Executive, Mr Grimmond. In respect of the above-named petition being considered by the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee. The Committee is seeking information on:

- 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.

Regrettably, the information sought is not readily searchable in our system and so I can only answer in general terms because someone would need to go through 7,870 cases manually to retrieve the information requested.

The mechanisms for reporting potential breaches of planning control, including those involving protected trees, is set out in Fife Planning's [Enforcement Charter](#).

The prosecutions question relatively straightforward for recent and current cases:

- 19/00497/ENF - we have served a Tree Replacement Notice without recourse to prosecution;

- 21/00350/ENF - We secured replacement planting of a single removed tree without recourse to prosecution;
- 22/00179/ENF - This is an open investigation, and we may be seeking replacement planting, but this has not yet been determined. The Council will not be seeking prosecution.

I hope this information assists the Committee.