

REQUEST 408/2011

Environmental information re marram re-sprigging

(provided under Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004, and exempt from disclosure under section 39(2) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002)

On 3 August 2009, Grampian Police were advised that plans for the marram grass planting were to be submitted for review in September, with work starting at the end of the year.

On 7 September 2009, Grampian Police were advised that marram grass planting is scheduled for 1 November, subject to grant of planning permission. The date of the hearing for the planning permission is 27 October. The season ends at the end of March. They are planting 50 – 60 acres.

On 15 September 2009, Grampian Police were advised that the marram grass is being contracted out to Moray Landscapes, and will involve 12 people with no skill planting the grass.

On 20 October 2009, Grampian Police were advised that the meeting to hear the technical aspects of the marram grass planting on the SSSI is scheduled for the local planning committee meeting on 27 October 2009 at Kirk Centre, Ellon. The full Area Meeting commences at 0945 hours, with the planning aspect commencing around 1045 hours, with the marram grass being heard as third item. It is anticipated that the marram grass application will take approximately an hour to hear.

If planning consent is provided, TIGLS plan to commence marram grass planting on the SSSI dunes on Monday 2 November 2009. It will continue until the end of January 2010. This involves 6 individuals from the contractor, Moray Landscapes, Cullen, pulling marram grass sprigs from a nearby donor site and re-planting within the 50-60 acres of the area requiring to be stabilised. This requires no particular skill, but a lot of time, given the coverage and the fact it is done by hand.

The relevant area will have small perimeter fencing and notices posted thereon to restrict access, which could cause damage to that just planted.

Further ground clear work will continue from January 2010, which will include plant machinery clearing and other significant preparatory work. The contract is out for bids at present, to be decided on imminently.

On 28 October 2009, Grampian Police officers and staff advised that marram grass planting will be ongoing to the end of January.

On 22 February 2010, Grampian Police advised that marram re-sprigging is half-way complete, with daily activity on the north part of the estate, referred to as the 'dome'. It is accessed via Hatterseat junction or through the main entrance. The road which accesses the building work has been in a very poor state making it extremely difficult to access using a vehicle, however improvements have now been made and now access using a 'soft roader' type vehicle is possible.