

Top line results of Scottish Outdoor Access Network survey

Results for the financial year 2019/20

This survey was coordinated by Ramblers Scotland on behalf of Scottish Outdoor Access Network, with 34 responses received from Scotland's 34 access authorities.

Access officers

We found that there is the equivalent of 36.5 full-time (FTE) access officers in post across Scotland.

Six of these are from the two national parks – with three each – meaning 29.5 for 31 local authorities.

Six local authorities have no access officers at all in post, an additional authority has a half time post.

For comparison, Scottish Government figures show that in:

- 2005/6: 65.5 FTE access officers
- 2015/16: 50 FTE access officers

We know that prior to this year there were access-supporting staff – such as technicians, administrators etc - but these support roles were not included in the earlier ScotGov monitoring figures shown above, so we have not recorded this additional capacity in our own survey.

Rangers

The 34 authorities employ 93.2 FTE non-seasonal rangers, with 11 local authorities employing no non-seasonal rangers.

We found 26 seasonal rangers - all employed at the two NPs - plus some others in local authorities, but detailed information was not known by respondents.

LAFs

We found that 26 out of 34 Local Access Forums have met this year at least once, but eight have not met at all.

Section 14 notices

Two section 14 notices have been served; both to remove obstructions in Orkney.

Access officer numbers by authority

Authority	Access officer
Aberdeen city	2
Aberdeenshire	1
Angus	1
Argyll & Bute	1
Clacks	0
D&G	1
Dundee	1
East Ayrshire	1
East Dunbartonshire	1
East Lothian	1

East Renfrewshire	1
Edinburgh	1
Eilean Siar	0.5
Falkirk	1
Fife	1
Glasgow City	1
Highland	3
Inverclyde	0
Midlothian	0
Moray	1
North Ayrshire	1
North Lanarkshire	2
Orkney	1
Perth & Kinross	1
Renfrewshire	0
Scottish Borders	0
Shetland	1
South Ayrshire	1
South Lanarkshire	2
Stirling	1
West Dunbartonshire	1
West Lothian	0
Cairngorms NPA	3
LLTNPA	3
TOTAL	36.5