

4th March 2026

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your request of 12th February 2026 in which you asked the following:

I am requesting information relating to the closure of pedestrian gates at Richmond Park overnight and the reopening time of approximately 7:30am during certain periods of the year. Please provide the following information for the last ten years, or the maximum period held:

- 1. Copies of any risk assessments, method statements, operational plans, or safety documents governing the decision to close pedestrian gates overnight at Richmond Park.**

I have attached the relevant Risk Assessment Forms, and The traffic order with approval for Temporary Closure Various PROW Footpaths in Richmond Park.

- 2. Any documents, reports, internal guidance, or decision records that specify or justify:**

(a) the overnight closure of pedestrian gates, and

(b) the selection of a reopening time of approximately 7:30am.

We do not hold this information. This would have formed part of an operational plan for the management of the deer developed a number of years ago.

- 3. Any records explaining why alternative reopening times (for example, earlier pedestrian access) were considered or rejected.**

As above, we do not hold this information.

- 4. Any review documents, meeting minutes, or internal correspondence where the pedestrian gate closure policy or reopening times were evaluated, amended, or reaffirmed.**

As above, we do not hold this information.

- 5. Confirmation of whether pedestrian gates are closed on nights when no deer culling activity is taking place, and if so, the rationale for this approach.**

With regard to the current Cull, the park is locked at 8pm and reopens by 7.30am. This applies Sunday night through to Thursday night.

Pedestrian gates are open on Friday night and Saturday night as no shooting takes place during this time. This is for a six-week period.

Public safety is of paramount importance and where we have firearms being deployed in darkness we must close the park.

I enclose a copy of our night licence regarding permission to shoot at night.

I hope this information satisfies your request.

Right of Review



If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may request an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this letter, quoting the reference at the top of the page and should be addressed to:

Records Manager
The Royal Parks
The Old Police House
Hyde Park
London
W2 2UH

Email: records@royalparks.org.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision, quoting the reference at the top of the page. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Records Manager | records@royalparks.org.uk | www.royalparks.org.uk |
The Old Police House | Hyde Park | London | W2 2UH