



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Your ref:
Our ref: RFI 6549
Date: 07 May 2014

Dear,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Home Grown Timber Advisory Committee

Thank you for your request for information about the **Home Grown Timber Advisory Committee**, which we received on 28 April. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Please see below the information you requested.

1. The purpose of the Home Grown Timber Advisory Committee.

The HGTAC was established in legislation as a central advisory committee, initially to advise Forestry Commissioners on their duties to promote the interests of forestry and the establishment and maintenance of sufficient reserves of growing trees across Great Britain. As the Commissioners' role was revised, the Committee also advised on the Commissioners' duty to find a balance between the development and management of forestry and the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment, the Commissioners' 'balancing' duty. More precisely, section 37 of the Forestry Act 1967 states:

“For the purpose of advising the Commissioners as to the performance of their functions under section 1(3) and Part II of this Act, and such other functions as the Commissioners may from time to time determine, the Commissioners shall continue to maintain—

(a) the central advisory committee for Great Britain known as the Home Grown Timber Advisory Committee;...”

2. The current number of members/employees of this committee as at 28/04/2014.



There are currently no members/employees of this committee.

3. The names of the current members of this committee.

Please see above.

4. The estimated cost of running the committee for the years 2010/2011/2012/2013.

They have been no running costs, since the committee last met in 2005.

Additionally, please see attached link to our formal consultation on its intended abolition:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/landscape-outdoor-recreation-and-forestry/intended-abolition-of-the-hgtac>

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and in keeping with the government's Transparency Agenda, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you will now be published on www.gov.uk together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. Please note that this will not include your personal data.

I attach Annex A, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you.

I also attach Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Business Support Team
Rural Development, Sustainable Communities & Crops
Defra
Area 1E, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

Annex A

Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

Most documents produced by Defra will be protected by Crown Copyright. Most Crown copyright information can be re-used under the [Open Government Licence](#). For information about the OGL and about re-using Crown Copyright information please see [The National Archives website](#).

Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).

Annex B

Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 18 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Mike Kaye, Head of Information Standards, Area 4D, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: requestforinfo@defra.gsi.gov.uk) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our [website](#).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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