



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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

Via E mail only:

Our ref: RFI 5826
Date: 25 September 2013

Dear *****

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: *Rhydymwyn – Great Crested Newts and NEWW*

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 29 August 2013. We have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs)].

The EIRs apply to requests for environmental information, which is a broad category of information defined in regulation 2 of the EIRs. Public authorities are required to handle requests for environmental information under the EIRs. They give similar access rights to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

All ponds on the site are managed as part of the wider nature reserve, not specifically for GCN's, nor were they created specifically for GCN's. Best management practice is observed, such as adhering to legal / licensing requirements for GCN when managing the ponds. All ponds are surveyed annually as part of the monitoring programme in North East Wales.

Referring to the specific information requested:

1. *Please provide the GCN counts for 5 years to this June,*

The available records are attached.

2. *How much has NEWW been paid to date for the contract?*

£540,880.45 from the start of the contract, to date.

3. *What monitoring procedures are in place to monitor the contract?*

4. *Has the contract been monitored and by whom?*

5. *What Audit has been carried out to ensure that NEWW has spent the monies on the carrying out of the contract appropriately and to best value?*



The contract was put in place, with agreed funding levels for each year, together with a high level works plan. NEWW prepares an annual management plan, within the funding constraints for that year, in line with the high level works plan and provides this to the Department and DTZ. The overview of the site's activities is held by DTZ, the Department's retained agent

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIRs 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.

Attached is Annex A, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you.

Also attached is 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 us.

Yours

Defra Estates

M: estates.correspondence@defra.gsi.gov.uk

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