



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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**Your ref:**  
**Our ref:** RFI 5791  
**Date:** 26 September  
**2013**

Dear

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: EMAILS, DOCUMENTS AND MINUTES OF MEETINGS MENTIONING THE MARINE ENGLAND REGULATORY SERVICE- LIMITED TO BETWEEN 1 SEPTEMBER 2012 AND 6 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Thank you for your request for information received on 6 September 2013. This response covers your requests to Defra and the Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) for emails, documents and minutes of meetings which relate to the Marine England Regulatory Service between 1 September 2012 and 6 September 2013. Similar requests made to the Environment Agency and Natural England have been dealt separately. As you know, we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I enclose a copy of the information you requested. Defra holds two documents which made references to the Marine England Regulatory Service.

These were minutes of a meeting between the Marine Management Organisation and Defra on 14 March 2013 and a paper prepared for the Marine Programme Board on 20 March 2013.

The minutes of the meeting on 14 March recorded the following information:

**'Red Tape Challenge** has provided a useful opportunity to review how MMO works with other regulators. A 'Marine England Regulatory Service' (MERS) paper will set out options to work more closely together in the future. The MERS paper will propose the establishment of a formal operating agreement between regulators, the Marine Management Organisation, Natural England, the Environment Agency. Additionally, these three 'Arms Length Bodies' plus the Forestry Commission are issuing next month a "Single



Voice” 2-page joint ‘offer and asks’ directed at Local Enterprise Partnerships, City Deals, and Enterprise Zones.’

The Marine England Regulatory Service was also referred to in a paper prepared by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Science, the Marine Management Organisation, the Environment Agency, Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee for the Marine Programme Board meeting on 20 March 2013. Please see RFI – DOC 1 attached. The Coastal Concordat discussed at paragraph 3.6 was recently reviewed and endorsed by the Cabinet Office’s Reducing Regulation sub-Committee. The Concordat is to be launched at a Focus on Enforcement event on 11 November 2013. If you are interested in details of the event, please see the website at the following link: <http://discuss.bis.gov.uk/focusonenforcement/focus-on-enforcement-conference/>

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](http://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

Amanda Furlonger  
Marine Programme Office

T: 020 7238 6830

## **Annex A**

### **Copyright**

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## **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](mailto: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