



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

T: 03459 33 55 77 or  
08459 33 55 77  
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk  
[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

**Our ref:** RFI 6663  
**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014

Dear

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: MEETINGS AND CORRESPONDANCE BETWEEN THE  
BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION AND MINISTER OWEN  
PATERSON BETWEEN 01/01/2013 AND 17/06/2014**

Thank you for your request for information about meetings and correspondence between representatives of BASC and Minister Owen Paterson (or officials from the Minister's office) which we received on 17/06/2014. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). You asked for copies of the following records for the period between 01/01/2013 and the date your request was received which was on 17/06/14.

- The number of meetings between representatives of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) and Minister Owen Paterson (or officials from the minister's office).
- The dates and minutes of those meetings.
- All correspondence between the BASC and Minister Paterson's office.

A search of our records has shown that there were no meetings between representatives of BASC and Minister Owen Paterson or officials from the Minister's office during this period.

A search of our record shows there were 6 pieces of correspondence between the BASC and Minister Owen Paterson during the specified period. Copies of this correspondence are attached separately for your information.

The letters from BASC to the Minister dated 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2013 and the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013 refer to proposed increases to firearms licences by the Home Office. Defra plays an important role across Whitehall to identify and advise on policies that have an impact on rural communities and businesses. In keeping with this in July 2013 Defra facilitated a dialogue between the Home Office, the police and a range of rural stakeholders over the issue of increasing firearms licence fees.



The letters of the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013 and 17<sup>th</sup> October 2013 refer to the issue of plastic bag charges. Defra ran a Call for Evidence from 25 November 2013 until 20 December 2013. It asked for evidence on key aspects of how the plastic bag charge will work in England. We received 185 responses which are informing the drafting of the Regulations for the plastic bag charge in England. These Regulations will come into force on October 2015. More information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/reducing-and-managing-waste/supporting-pages/charging-for-single-use-plastic-carrier-bags>

The letters of the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and 8<sup>th</sup> March 2014 refer to developing the responsibilities of the Public Forest Estate Management Organisation. More information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-forest-estate-management-organisation-development-of-responsibilities>

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and 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 us at:

[Rural.communities@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Rural.communities@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

Yours

FOIA Team Rural Communities, Defra

## 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