



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk  
[www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

(Name and address withheld)

**Our ref:** RFI 5552  
**Date:** 9 July 2013

Dear (Name withheld)

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Details of grant funding awarded to Lancaster Co-Housing for Halton Lune Hydro.**

Thank you for your request for information about applications for funding made by Lancaster Co-Housing for the Halton Lune Hydro and conditions relating to them together with details of funding drawn down which we received on 12 June 2013. As you know, we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I can confirm the following in respect of the questions raised in your letter:

1. Confirmation of all grant applications made by Lancaster Co Housing for the Hydro scheme at Forge Weir and the conditions applying to them.

There has been one grant application approved by Defra in relation to the Hydro scheme at Forge Weir and this is dated 11 November 2011, which is also the official start date. The completion date is 13 November 2013.

The conditions of the offer letter are below:

**PART 1: UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES AND SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

- 1.1 The objectives of this contract

- 1.1.1 The contract is to provide funding to Lancaster Cohousing (on behalf of Halton Carbon Positive).



1.1.2 Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 shall not apply except in so far as a beneficiary is unable to claim RDPE from the applicant due to prior termination of this agreement by Defra.

1.1.3 Insurance liability will lie with the agency for all natural disasters and exceptional occurrences within the meaning of Article 107(2) EC Treaty. In all other cases the applicant shall ensure that all parties involved in this project raise or maintain the appropriate level of insurance cover.

1.1.4 The key objectives of this contract include:

- To promote the use of EU and Defra funds in the support of rural businesses and communities.
- To use the Rural Carbon Challenge Fund as a means of creating jobs in the renewable energy sector and increase the provision of renewable energy technologies in rural areas
- Raising the demonstration profile of their project sub-regionally, regionally and nationally

1.2 Publicity requirements

The EU legislation and EU auditors place great emphasis on the publicity of the EU and Defra funding for RDPE. The applicant must ensure that they implement the publicity requirements and this will be checked during the routine inspections of claims and records.

1.3 Equality and diversity

The applicant is aware of the equality and diversity legislation and it will take full account of this when delivering this contract.

1.4 Publicising the EU and Defra support

1.4.1 To meet our obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998 we need to explain how we will handle the information you give us. Because this grant will involve expenditure of public money, there is public interest in how the money is spent. In addition, the EU Regulations require us to make a certain amount of information available about who has received money under the Rural Development Programme.

Therefore Defra may, in certain circumstances, make information about your application and agreement publicly available for this purpose. It will also publish an annual list of all receiving financial support under the Programme, which will be available on a Government Website. We may also need to disclose details about your application and agreement to other organisations or individuals for administration, evaluation or monitoring purposes. Such information may be released upon request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 or the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Details disclosed may include your name, the name of your farm or business, grid references, and the payments you receive.

2. Information of the amount of grant drawn down to date relating to the Hydro project and what it has been spent on and by whom.

A total of £150,729.27 has been drawn down to date by the applicant towards the whole project including both the hydro project and the bio-mass scheme. This funding has been used against project management; design; approvals; labour and materials.

3. Detailed information relating to statements they have made on their applications relating to access (a) to the land (b) for the fishery.

The application does not contain any statements relating to access to the land and for the fishery.

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 sincerely

Denise Blackmore  
National Strategy Manager  
(Email: [denise.blackmore@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:denise.blackmore@defra.gsi.gov.uk))

## 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