



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

Your ref:
Our ref: RFI 6825
Date: 22 August 2014

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Payments to Recycling Companies and Individuals

Thank you for your request for information about documentation relating to payments to recycling companies and individuals, which we received on 2 July 2014. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

We apologise for the delay in providing this response to your request for information. A number of different people across the department have been working to identify any data that would help answer your question. This took much longer than planned, but allows us to provide a more definitive response.

You asked

Please provide me with all documents (including presentations, email correspondence and any other correspondence) which relate to payments made by Defra or on behalf of Defra to:

- UK Recyclate Ltd;
- Andy Moore;
- Michael Croxford;
- Worku Lakew;
- Malcolm Williams;
- The Campaign for Real Recycling.

Please include any document (including presentations, email correspondence and any other correspondence) related to any payment to any individual or legal firm representing any of the individuals, companies or group mentioned above.



In response

Following a search of our records, we have determined that core Defra has not made any payments to the entities you listed.

We want to be as open as possible in answering requests. The FOIA itself also requires us to help people obtain the information they are looking for. Unfortunately, your request for payments made to these entities on behalf of Defra would be very difficult to identify and would require manual investigation into a very large number of transactions. Gathering it together would therefore involve a significant cost and diversion of resources from the Department's other work.

Section 12(1) of the FOIA allows us to refuse a request for information if we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit, which currently stands at £600. On the basis of our estimates, we consider that the cost would exceed this limit and, as such, we are refusing this aspect of your request.

In addition, Section 12(2) provides that we are not required to confirm whether Defra holds the information requested if by doing so we would exceed the appropriate cost limit of £600. This is the case for the information that you have requested, and so please note that this response should not be taken as confirmation that the information is held by Defra.

Searching through financial records looking for third party payments would be exceptionally time consuming and there isn't a way we can suggest that would allow such a search to be carried out within the remit of an FOIA request.

However, if you were to make a new request for a different but similar category of information, it may be that we could comply with that request within the appropriate limit, although we cannot guarantee that this will be the case.

You could, for example, request a summary of payments made directly by Defra's Executive Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

Please note that if you modify your request, we will handle it as a new request and so the 20-working-day deadline for responding to requests would then commence from the date that we receive the modified request.

We attach an annex giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service that you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the address below.

Yours sincerely,

Defra FOI and EIRs Team

informationrequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Annex

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