



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

T:  
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk  
www.gov.uk/defra

Your ref:  
Our ref: RFI 6433  
Date: 11 April 2014

Dear [Redacted]

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: PIGMEAT SUPPLY CHAIN TASK FORCE**

Thank you for your request, received on 20 March, for information about the Pigmeat Supply Chain Task Force and its subgroups, specifically copies of minutes of meetings and correspondence. We are handling your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

As a first point, you should note that the following information which you have requested is already in the public domain:

(i) the membership and terms of reference of the Task Force and its subgroups and the minutes of Task Force meetings;

(ii) the Final Report of the Task Force, the summary of each subgroup's work and their official reports to the plenary Task Force; and

(iii) the work plans of each subgroup, attached to the minutes of the fifth (final) meeting of the Task Force.

The above documents can be found on the Defra website at <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/pigs/task-force/>.

Regarding meetings of the Task Force subgroups, I enclose a copy of the minutes of the subgroups which we hold, although we are unable to confirm whether these are the final approved minutes. For ease of reference, I am also including a list showing the dates of the various meetings that were held and an indication as to which minutes we do not hold.

Please note that the personal details of some members of the subgroups have been redacted. Section 40(2) of the FOIA provides that personal data relating to third parties is exempt information if disclosure would breach the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA). We consider that disclosure of this information is likely to breach the first data protection principle in Schedule 1 to the DPA, which relates to the fair and lawful processing of personal data, in two ways. First, disclosure would not constitute 'fair' processing of the personal data and, second, disclosure would not satisfy any of the conditions for data



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE

processing set out in Schedule 2 to the DPA. Therefore, the redacted information is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the FOIA.

The FOIA itself requires us to help people obtain the information they are looking for and we want to be as open as possible in answering requests. However, the information you have requested covering correspondence between Task Force and subgroup members, including government and Defra officials, is wide-ranging and very substantial. Gathering it together would 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 in responding to this part of your request would exceed this limit and, as such, we are refusing it.

However, were you to make a new request for a narrower category of information, we may be able to comply with that request within the appropriate cost limit, although I cannot guarantee that this will be the case. You could, for example, review the material which is already publicly available to see if this provides you with sufficient information, or you could narrow down your request by specifying which subject area covered by the subgroups you are interested in.

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

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and with the government's Transparency Agenda, all information provided in response to an FOI request is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information provided to you will be published on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk), together with any related information that provides 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.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

## **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](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