



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

T: 08459 33 55 77
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.defra.gov.uk

Email only

Our ref: RFI 6162
Date: 31 January 2014

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Food and drink supplied to Defra from overseas

Thank you for your request for information about *food and drink supplied to DEFRA from overseas* which we received on 08 January 2014. As you know we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

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, the amount of information you have requested is very substantial, and 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 would exceed this limit and, as such, we are refusing your request.

The best way we can help you is to ask you to consider narrowing down your request to focus more clearly on the precise information you are seeking. You could, for example:

- explain more fully and precisely the kind of information you are looking for in the first part of your request '*the total value of any food, feed and drink supplied to DEFRA from overseas in 2013*' (i.e. do we count only non-indigenous plant foods such as bananas and rice, for example, or also composite products from overseas that are then manufactured in the UK, which may be more difficult to quantify?);
- narrow down the second part of your request '*A breakdown of which countries supply food, feed and drink to DEFRA from overseas*' as to identify the country of origin for every product that we source would take a considerable amount of resource and time.
- We are able to confirm the third part of your request '*which countries beef, lamb and chicken is sourced from, to DEFRA? Please provide details of which meat comes from which country*' as all beef, lamb and chicken is sourced from the UK.



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.

I 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 us.

Yours

Defra Estates

M: estates.correspondence@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