



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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**Our ref:** RFI 6266  
**Date:** 6 February 2014

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: SOMERSET LEVELS FLOODS

Thank you for your request for information about the amount of compensation Defra has allocated for farmers involved in the Somerset levels floods, and the amount paid by the department to pay for pumps etc., which we received on 3 January . We have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

### Amount of compensation allocated for farmers involved in the Somerset levels floods:

There is no Government scheme to compensate for uninsured losses due to flooding for farmers or other businesses and individuals. It is the long-standing policy of successive governments that compensation is not paid for losses due to coastal erosion or damage caused by flooding. This is because, except in very limited circumstance, no-one has a right to flood or erosion defences or, if defences are provided; there is no legal requirement to provide any particular standard of defence.

### Amount paid by Defra to pay for pumps etc

To Tuesday 3 February, the Environment Agency has spent £400,000 on pumping. This includes fuel, electric pumps, additional pump hire, and additional manpower costs.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIRs, 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, and 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



## **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