



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

T: 03459 33 55 77
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www.gov.uk/defra

Your ref:
Our ref: RFI 6722
Date: 10 July 2014

Dear []

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: WEBSITE NAME CHANGES FROM MAFF TO DEFRA AND TO GOV.UK

Thank you for your request for information about the costs associated with website name changes from MAFF to Defra and in turn to GOV.UK, which we received on 9 May 2014. As you know, we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

In summary, you asked:

- How much the change of name from MAFF (2001) to Defra (mid 2001) and now to GOV.UK - I realise it covers three 'titles' but perhaps the fiscal details could be found ?
- May I ask please, what is an "arm's length body" ?

I am very sorry that we did not reply to your enquiry sooner. From the wider context in your email, I presume that your enquiry relates specifically to Defra's website.

I can confirm that (as far as I can recall) there were no costs incurred in creating the Defra website when the department was formed, in June 2001, from MAFF and from the environmental protection and wildlife management functions of the then DOE. The editorial and technical work was done by Defra staff as part of their normal jobs.

I can also confirm that no costs were incurred in moving existing information from the Defra website onto the GOV.UK website. Again, the work was done by staff in Defra and in the Government Digital Service as part of their normal jobs.



“Arm’s length bodies” is a general term we have used to refer to, for example, agencies, non-departmental public bodies and advisory committees.

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 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

David J Pearson
Website Manager

T: 020 7238 6398

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) 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