



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.defra.gov.uk

Your ref:
Our ref: RFI 5705
Date: 16th August 2013

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: MONIES GIVEN TO THE BBKA, COST OF SHB LURE AND COST OF BBKA MEETINGS

Thank you for your request for information about the amount of monies given to the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA), the cost of meetings with the BBKA in the last three years and the cost of the Small Hive Beetle (SHB) lure, which we received on 25th July. As you know, we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

The information you requested is as follows:

Amount of monies given to the BBKA

Under the Healthy Bees Plan, the following funding was allocated to the BBKA under contract following the agreement of the Plan's Project Management Board.

In financial year 2010/11, the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) paid BBKA £191,440 to support the Course in a Case initiative which included development, delivery and distribution of education materials for the various competency levels and assessment of the effectiveness of those materials. £69,300 of this amount was by Fera's instruction sub-contracted to the National Diploma in Beekeeping for it to develop and deliver training modules for training trainers to support the BBKA's course in a case initiative.

In financial year 2011/12 Fera paid BBKA £5,000 to support its training coordinator to follow up the BBKA's winter training programme and subsequent summer programmes to ensure the events were improving and standardising teaching capability.

In financial year 2012/13 Fera paid BBKA £30,076 to set up and support its regional education officer meetings and development and preparation of courses to support the general and advanced husbandry exams.



As part of these contracts, the BBKA was required to submit the finished Course in a Case product to Fera and report progress to the Healthy Bees Plan's Project Management Board on the work undertaken.

Cost of meetings with the BBKA in the last three years

There have been no meetings in the last three years between Fera/Defra and the BBKA alone for which the association claimed any expenses. However, a number of stakeholder meetings, which have included the BBKA, have taken place, such as: The Healthy Bees Plan's Project Management Board and working groups, Bee Health Advisory Forum and the Bee Health Disease Control Policy Review.

The costs of these meetings are broken down in the below table.

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Reimbursement of travel expenses (all stakeholders except BBKA)	11,773.06	12,731.20	6,992.05
Reimbursement of travel expenses (BBKA)	1,325.15	21.80	0
Travel expenses (staff)	2,324.57	2,849.77	2,391.12
Other costs i.e. catering, room costs etc.	2,279.25	467.10	511.20

Cost of the Small Hive Beetle lure

No costs were involved in the field trials involving the small hive beetle lure as this work was undertaken by the USDA free of charge.

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

Marie Holmes

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Annex A

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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