



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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

By email

Our ref: RFI 6388
Date: 21 March 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Appointment of Lord Chris Smith as Chairman for the Environment Agency

Thank you for your request for information on the appointment of Lord Chris as the Chairman of the Environment Agency which we received on Tuesday 11 March. You specifically asked where the position was advertised, how many people applied and how many were interviewed. As you know we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and can provide the information below.

Adverts were placed in the Sunday Times and the Guardian, as well as online (Odgers website and the Department's Public Appointments Unit pages) in January 2008. The recruitment consultants, Odgers, Ray and Berndston were also asked to search for candidates. Our records suggest that there were around 40 candidates for the position, five of whom were interviewed.

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 needed to 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

[REDACTED]

Environment Agency Sponsorship Team

Telephone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]@defra.gsi.gov.uk

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