



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Our ref: RFI 6137

Date: 13 January 2014

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Documentation in respect of the adjournment debate called by Ms Alison Seabek in May 2013

Thank you for your request for information about the adjournment debate called by Ms Alison Seabek on 20 May 2013 which we received on 02 January 2014. 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. Both Ms Seabek's motion and the Minister's response, to which officials contributed, are recorded in Hansard at: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130520/debtext/130520-0004.htm#1305216000002>. In addition, I have been able to comply with your specific request for the letter addressing issues raised in the adjournment debate sent from James Cross to John Robbs. Please find the enclosed document dated 19 June 2013.

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.

However, if you were to make a new request for a narrower category of information, it may be that we could comply with that request within the appropriate limit, although we cannot guarantee that this will be the case. We would also guide you towards material that is already in the public domain if applicable.

Additional examples of how you can narrow down your request to focus more clearly on the precise information you are seeking are listed below.



- You could specify a time period in your request;
- You could explain more fully and precisely the kind of information you are looking for;
- You could ask us to omit information that falls within the scope of your request but would add nothing to your understanding of the matter, e.g. housekeeping emails, such as meeting requests and acknowledgements; draft documents, where the finalized document also falls within the scope of the request; and personal information, such as names and email addresses of junior staff and third parties, etc;
- You could browse through the material that has already been made publicly available by Defra to see if this would help you identify more precise questions that we might be able to answer at less cost.

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.

In compliance with 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.

We attach Annex A, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you.

We 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 us at shellfish@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Shellfish Team – Sustainable Fisheries
Defra

Annex A

Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

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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