



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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

Our ref: RFI 5943
Date: 12 November 2013

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Correspondence between Defra and Mr Alok Sharma MP regarding Coley Park

Thank you for your request for information about correspondence between Defra and Mr Alok Sharma MP, which was received on 17 October 2013. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Following careful consideration, we have decided not to disclose some of this information. Please find enclosed a copy of the information which can be disclosed consisting of three items of correspondence.

The remainder of the information requested is being withheld as it falls under the exemption in Section 43 of the FOIA, which relates to commercial information relating to Coley Park. The withheld document contains information received by Defra following a recent marketing campaign.

In applying this exemption we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure.

We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosure of this information.

On the other hand, there is a strong public interest in withholding the information due to the need to protect Government's credibility in future dealings with this site and other property disposals.

Therefore, we have concluded, in all the circumstances of the case, the information should be withheld.

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.

Please find attached Annex A, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you.



Please also find attached Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

Yours sincerely

Defra Estates

E mail: estates.correspondence@defra.gsi.gov.uk

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