



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Our ref: RFI5974
Date: 02/12/2013

Dear 

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Population-weighted annual mean anthropogenic and non-anthropogenic PM_{2.5} estimates for local areas and regions in England.

Thank you for your request for information about population-weighted annual mean anthropogenic and non-anthropogenic PM_{2.5} estimates for local areas and regions in England, which we received on 06th November 2013. We have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

As you are aware, the EIRs apply to requests for environmental information, which is a broad category of information defined in regulation 2 of the EIRs. Public authorities are required to handle requests for environmental information under the EIRs. They give similar access rights to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I enclose the population-weighted annual mean anthropogenic and non-anthropogenic PM_{2.5} estimates for upper tier, unitary authorities and regions in England for 2010 and 2011 (filename: RFI5974.xlsx; nb 2012 is not available) and this is provided under the Open Government License (OGL). Please refer to our terms of use <http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/about-these-pages>.

I have also provided population-weighted annual mean anthropogenic and non-anthropogenic PM_{2.5} national estimates for England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales for 2010 and 2011 as requested. These data have not been aggregated up to UK level so a UK figure is not presented.

The PHOF indicator is intended to enable Directors of Public Health to prioritise action on air quality in their local area to help reduce the health burden from air pollution. It should not be used to directly compare PM_{2.5} concentrations from year to year and therefore an upward trend in non-anthropogenic particulate matter should not be assumed from the results. The assignment into anthropogenic and non-anthropogenic categories is subject



to both measurement and modelling uncertainty and therefore subject to variation from year to year. The Average Exposure Indicator provides a method of comparing population exposure to PM_{2.5} over time at urban background monitoring stations. The methodology for this is detailed in the technical modelling report for 2011.

http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/reports/cat09/1310021025_AQD_DD4_2011mapsrepv0.pdf

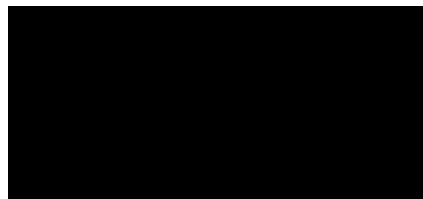
In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIRs, and in keeping with the government's Transparency Agenda, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you will now be published on www.gov.uk together with any related information that 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



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Science Evidence Team
Atmosphere and Noise
Resource Atmosphere and Sustainability
Defra

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