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RFI6060

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Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Files relating to the Northfield Report

Thank you for your request for information about the status and whereabouts of the files relating to the Northfield Report, which we received on 3 December. We have handled this new request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

The initial search of the file database, which holds over 520,000 records initially only revealed the two CQE files of 13C and 13D. Additional research has revealed a total of 129 CQE files which are currently being held in our Record Centre. These files are overdue for appraisal and will be added to 2014 appraisal programme, at which time a decision will be taken on whether or not to preserve any of these records in The National Archives.

File AHA 10488 was the file series for the 'Committee of Inquiry into the Acquisition and Ownership of Agricultural Land (Northfield Committee)'. This was destroyed in 2004 because the report was published.

There were no actual Committee papers on the AHA file and the Committee report was officially published as a Command Paper which should be available from Government Publications.

I hope the existence of these files explains the gaps in the file series and attach a list of all the available CQE records with their numbers and titles. If you would like to examine these files they can be requested for you via the Departmental Records

Centre. We can only request 6 files at a time and they need to be returned before other orders can be made.

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

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