



Department
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Food & Rural Affairs

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Your ref:
Our ref: RFI 6154
Date: 22 January 2014

[Redacted]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: SUBMISSIONS AND/OR CORRESPONDENCE MADE BY THE BRITISH EQUINE VETERINARY ASSOCIATION (BEVA) IN RELATION TO CONSULTATIONS ON THE CODE OF PRACTICE ON HOW TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF RAGWORT

Thank you for your request which we received on 3 January 2014, for information about copies of submissions and/or related correspondence made by the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) regarding the consultations over the Code of Practice on How to Prevent the Spread of Ragwort. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

The most recent correspondence we have from BEVA is in relation to the 2004 consultation on the Code of Practice on How to Prevent the Spread of Ragwort. We do not have a copy of their actual letter. We only have a summary of their response which says:

“Code will be a practical guide to help public bodies, relevant authorities, owners/occupiers of land to control spread of common ragwort. Concerned about increasing amount of set aside land which poses threat to efficiency of a ragwort control programme. Reinforce para 59 re the importance of ragwort control as part of agricultural diversification. (53)”

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 sincerely

Annex A

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Annex B

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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
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