



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Our ref: RFI 6396
Date: 13th March 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: HUNTING WITH DOGS AND THE HUNTING ACT 2004

Thank you for your request for information about hunting with dogs and the Hunting Act 2004, which we received by email on 10th March 2014. We are handling your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You specifically ask for information on:

- 1. All submissions, and responses to submissions, between Defra policy teams working on policy relating to hunting with dogs and the Hunting Act 2004 and Defra ministers, including the Secretary of State, since 1st January 2014 and today, 10th March 2014. This should include any submissions that reference the paper regarding flushing, by Naylor and Knott, which the Defra SoS and Ministers have referred to in recent days.**
- 2. All email and letter exchanges between Defra Ministers and Economic Affairs Committee and Defra Ministers and Parliamentary Business and Legislation Committee relating to hunting with dogs and the Hunting Act 2004 between 1st January 2014 and today 10th March 2014.**

With regard to your first question, a search of our records has shown that no submission has been sent up from policy officials to Defra Ministers regarding either hunting with dogs or the Hunting Act 2004 between 1 January 2014 and the 10th March 2014. We are aware of the research paper you refer to: A pack of dogs is more effective at flushing red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) to guns than a pair, by J.R.J. Naylor and J. G. Knott.

Your second question asks if there have been any email and letter exchanges between Defra Ministers and Economic Affairs Committee and Defra Ministers and Parliamentary Business and Legislation Committee relating to hunting with dogs and the Hunting Act 2004 between 1st January 2014 and today 10th March 2014. I can confirm that no correspondence exchange between Defra Ministers and these two Committees has taken place during this time.



If you have any queries about this letter please contact us at rural.communities@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Yours,

Defra, Rural FOI Team