



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

T:
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www.defra.gov.uk

(Personal details redacted)

Our ref: RFI 5640
Date: 29 July 2013

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Further details of grant funding awarded to Lancaster Co-Housing for Halton Lune Hydro.

Thank you for your request for information about applications for funding made by Lancaster Co-Housing for the Halton Lune Hydro project with details of funding drawn down, land ownership and clarification on completion dates which we received on 10 July 2013. As you know, we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I can confirm the following in respect of the questions raised in your letter:

1. Information of the amount of grant drawn down to date relating to the Lancaster Co-Housing project and what it has been spent on and by whom.

A total of £150,729.27 has been drawn down for the whole project which includes the bio-mass scheme. The amount of funding drawn down to date which specifically relate to the Halton Lune Hydro part of the project is £19,328.02 which has been spent by the applicants on the design of the fish pass and turbine house, development of the fish screen specification, and the electrical design.

2. Issues of land ownership in appraisal.

The application indicates that the land is in the ownership of united utilities and there was a supporting letter from United Utilities providing in principle support to the scheme.

The appraiser took this as proof of ownership and the 'in principle' acceptance of the future use of the land.

In order to ensure that the project had the relevant permissions in place, a cap on spending has been enforced on the hydro part of the project until such time as all



relevant consents and permissions are in place. (This also covers your points raised in Q4 of your request).

3. Confirmation of end date and reasons for any extension.

It has now been agreed that the project completion date will be 28 February 2014. An extension was agreed to allow the applicant more time to resolve land ownership issues and relevant permits.

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

Denise Blackmore

National Strategy Manager

(Email: denise.blackmore@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