



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Our ref: RFI 6327
Date: 24 March 2014

Dear

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: PFI PAYMENTS TO SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR ADVANCED WASTE TREATMENT**

Thank you for your request for:

- “1. Can you please supply details of all payments made and credits allocated by DEFRA to Surrey County Council to support its waste treatment transition from landfill to Thermal treatment and anaerobic digestion, through PFI fiscal incentives and all other mechanisms available to DEFRA.
2. Are any money's identified in (1) above and already paid to Surrey County Council, if any, liable to be refunded to DEFRA if all or part of Surrey's Waste Plan does not proceed.
3. If the answer to (2) is YES, then will this repayment be in full or in part, and if in part how will this be calculated?”

As you are aware, we have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs). 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).

Q1. Can you please supply details of all payments made and credits allocated by Defra to Surrey County Council (SCC) to support its waste treatment transition from landfill to Thermal treatment and anaerobic digestion, through PFI fiscal incentives and all other mechanisms available to Defra.

A1: The decision to provide £85.5m Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Credit support was made in 1999 by the then Department of Environment, Transport and Region (DETR; Defra's predecessor). The £85.5m PFI Credit (now referred to as Waste Infrastructure Credit or WIC) translates into around £205m Waste Infrastructure Grant (WIG) payable on a quarterly basis until 2023/2024.



Below is a table supplying the details requested of payments made.

| Total Waste Infrastructure Grant (WIG) Payable - £m | 1999/00 | 2000/01 | 2001/02 | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | Total Paid 2005/06 – 2012/13 (Annual payment £7.95m) | Total WIG paid to 2013/13 £m |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|------------------------------|
| 204.7 | 6.6 | 10.2 | 9.8 | 9.5 | 9.2 | 8.8 | 63.6 | 117.7 |

Q2: Are any money's identified in (1) above and already paid to Surrey County Council, if any, liable to be refunded to DEFRA if all or part of Surrey's Waste Plan does not proceed.

A2: The WIG amount already paid to SCC can be found in the table above.

There is no intention to withdraw WIG, claw back WIG already paid or reduce the total amount of WIG payable to the Council over the period of the award provided the Project continues to meet the terms and conditions of the grant award.

Q3: If the answer to (2) is YES, then will this repayment be in full or in part, and if in part how will this be calculated?

A3: This is explained in my answer to Q2.

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 the WIDP Programme Office.

Yours sincerely

WIDP Programme Office

widp.programmeoffice@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