



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

By email only: [Redacted]

Your ref:

Our ref: RFI 6109

Date: 16 January 2014

Dear [Redacted]

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN DEFRA  
AND THIRD PARTIES ON UK COMPLIANCE WITH THE EC ZOOS DIRECTIVE**

Thank you for your request for information about correspondence relating to the UK's compliance with the EC Zoos Directive which we received on 17 December 2013. As you know we are handling your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I am writing to advise you that the time limit for responding to your request for information under the FOIA needs to be extended.

The FOIA allows us 20 working days to respond to your request from the date that we received it. However, section 10(3) of the FOIA provides that, where we have to consider the balance of the public interest in relation to a qualified exemption that applies to the requested information, we can extend the 20-working-day time limit for issuing a response until such time as is reasonable in the circumstances.

In this case, I regret that we must extend the time limit for responding by 20 days because the information requested is being considered under one or more of the FOIA's exemptions to which the public interest test applies. This means that we need to assess whether in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption(s) outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information it, and some extra time is needed to determine this.

The particular qualified exemption we are considering in relation to your request is sections 35 – *Formulation of government policy*.



INVESTORS  
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However, I can release some of the information relating to your request which we received from a third party (enclosed with this email). We have received permission to release this information from the third party. However, some of the information has been redacted which relates to personal information and which is subject to an absolute exemption under section 40(2) of the FOIA.

You may be interested to note that there are two Parliamentary Questions relating to your request. Although we hold this information, under Section 21 of the FOIA– which is an absolute exemption - we do not have to release the information because it is accessible to you by other means. This information can be found at:

[http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120621/text/120621w0002.htm#120621w0002.htm\\_wqn37](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120621/text/120621w0002.htm#120621w0002.htm_wqn37)

I hope to let you have a full response to your request by 14 February 2014, and will keep you informed of any further delay.

I attach an annex 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

**[Redacted]**

## **Annex** **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](mailto: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

