



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk  
[www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

**Our ref:** RFI 6088  
**Date:** 9 January 2013

## **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: INFORMATION ON ALL FOI REQUESTS SENT.**

Thank you for your request for information for a list of all FOI requests made to Defra from the date that the FOI Act came into force which we received on 11 December 2013. As you know, we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Specifically you requested;

From the date that the FOI Act came into force, please supply a list of all FOI requests made to your department.

We want to be as open as possible in answering requests. The FOIA itself also requires us to help people obtain the information they are looking for. Your request is very broad and covers an enormous amount of information, going back many years. Gathering it together would therefore involve a significant cost and diversion of resources from the Department's other work. This is because our system would require us to pull out each case individually. It would therefore take several days to produce the level of detailed information you have requested. Total numbers of FOI request (for example the number of ICO cases in a given quarter) can however be found on the MoJ website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/government-foi-statistics> .

Section 12(1) of the FOIA allows us to refuse a request for information if we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit, which currently stands at £600. On the basis of our estimates, we consider that the cost would exceed this limit and, as such, we are refusing your request.

However, if you were to make a new request for a narrower category of information, it may be that we could comply with that request within the appropriate limit, although I cannot guarantee that this will be the case.



The best way we can help you is to ask you to consider narrowing down your request to focus more clearly on the precise information you are seeking. I note from your original e-mail requesting the information that you asked if this request went beyond compliance costs, for us to supply information for the most recent calendar year and work backwards annually until it went beyond the legal limit. Details of FOI requests received by Defra since May 2013 are already published on the Defra website at [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs&publication\\_type=foi-releases](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs&publication_type=foi-releases)

Please note that if you modify your request, we will handle it as a new request and so the 20-working-day deadline for responding to requests would then commence from the date that we receive the modified request.

I attach an annex giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service that you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me.

## **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