



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

T: 020 72384938
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.defra.gov.uk

Mr [REDACTED]
Via email

Our ref: RFI 5961
Date: 28 November 2013

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: LOCAL ADAPTATION ADVISORY PANEL

Thank you for your request for information about the Local Adaptation Advisory Panel, which we received on 31 October 2013. As you know, we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

The request for information concerns the work of the Local Adaptation Advisory Panel (LAAP), which was established by Defra in 2010 to facilitate dialogue between Government and a number of councils across England on how to best support local adaptation action. Although the Panel is not representative of the views of Local Government, its remit is to provide advice to Government and help share best practice across its council members. It is chaired by Rupert Clubb, Director of Communities, Economy and Transport at East Sussex County Council. The Environment Agency currently provides the Secretariat for the Panel on Defra's behalf.

Recently the Panel was instrumental in feeding in council views on the National Adaptation Programme report published in July this year and it has committed to lead on a number of actions in the report related to helping raise the profile and sharing best practice examples of local council work on climate change adaptation. It also is a forum through which Government can ensure, through the feedback from councils, that the policy framework supports local council efforts on adaptation.

You asked for the names, job titles and organisations of all current and past members of the LAAP and the written minutes of the meetings of the LAAP. The minutes include the names (where disclosed) of the panel members that attended and the meeting dates. These are attached. Following careful consideration, you will see that we have redacted the names of a number of attendees in the meeting minutes, using s.40 of the FOI Act. This section applies to personal information under the Data Protection Act for which disclosure is considered against a number of tests. In particular, names of senior officials are disclosed and names of junior officials are disclosed only where they are already referenced in the public domain.

You also asked for all written correspondence between the LAAP and the Committee on Climate Change. I can confirm that no such correspondence has been issued. The Adaptation Sub Committee (ASC) Secretariat is represented on the Panel and on occasions provides updates on the key findings of the ASC's annual progress reports that are particularly relevant to local government, as detailed in the minutes.

You asked for the reports and recommendations of the LAAP. As a forum for dialogue between local and central government on adaptation matters allowing the Panel to advise government, no such reports or recommendations exist.

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


Defra Climate Ready Team
Sustainable Business