



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Your ref:

Our ref: RFI 6235

Date: 19 February 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Database Software

Thank you for your request for information about database software in Defra, which we received on 28 January 2014. As you know, we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

We have answered your questions below.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) does use IBM's database software DB2 for Unix. The Department also uses:

Oracle, predominantly on Unix with some smaller Windows installations; MS SQL Server on Windows used by medium sized applications; Access on Windows for several smaller applications; Domino on Windows for one application.

In addition there are two legacy systems using Hummingbird and Foxpro on Windows that are in the process of being decommissioned. Defra has outsourced its application development and support services to IBM and the choice of database solution for each application is part of the detailed systems design undertaken by IBM. All of the above databases are supported by IBM. The Department does not directly procure database software. The person with overall responsibility for systems design decisions, including the choice of database software, is Andrew Whitehouse (andrew.i.whitehouse@defra.gsi.gov.uk), Defra's Chief Technology Officer.



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



Email: is.communications@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