



Your ref:
Our ref: RFI 5706
Date: 16th August 2013

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: MONIES GIVEN TO THE BRITISH BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION (BBKA)

Thank you for your request for information about monies given to the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) which we received on 22nd July. As you know, we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

The information you requested is as follows:

- Under the Healthy Bees Plan (HBP), funding was allocated to the BBKA under a contract between the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) and BBKA Enterprises Ltd. Subsequent invoices received from the BBKA by Fera were submitted by BBKA Enterprises Ltd. Fera and the HBP's Project Management Board (PMB) were satisfied with the delivery of the work according to the scope of the work detailed in the contract which included the sale of certain material.
- Amateur and professional beekeeping bodies have both received monies from Fera under the HBP. The Bee Farmers Association (BFA) received funding to launch its apprenticeship scheme, a contribution towards its annual Spring Conference and funding for financial year 2013/14 to further support the apprenticeship scheme has been approved in principle. As amateurs make up approximately 99% of beekeepers in the UK we aim to support both sectors for the benefit of bee health in England. The objectives of the HBP are to improve the beekeeping skills of all beekeepers and all funding schemes were approved by the HBP's PMB (now Bee Health Advisory Forum). The BFA is an active member of the Forum and fully supports the objectives of the HBP.

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

Marie Holmes

T: 01904 462000
F: 01904 462250

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