



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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

Our ref: RFI 5694

Date: 08/08/2013

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: ITOCC report commissioned by Defra

Thank you for your request for information about '1. The total costs of commissioning the report. 2. Please break this total cost down as far as possible. 3. Any briefing documents for Price Waterhouse Coopers prepared by Defra in advance of the work being undertaken.' which we received on Thursday 11th July. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

With regards to point 1; the information that you have requested is available at this website:

<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=18348>

As the information is reasonably accessible to you by other means, it is exempt from disclosure under section 21 FOIA. Your request has therefore been refused.

With regards to point 2: The information you requested is being withheld as it falls under the exemption in section 43 of the FOIA, which relates to Commercial interest.

In applying this exemption, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure.

We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosure of information concerning break down of the costs of the project.

On the other hand, there is a strong public interest in withholding the information because staff day rates are commercially sensitive. Disclosing this information would be detrimental of commercial interests as it would affect the competitiveness of PwC.

Therefore, we have concluded that in all the circumstances of the case, the information should be withheld.

With regards to point 3, I enclose a copy of the information you requested:



- A draft project specification document prepared by Defra which was sent to PwC

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 sincerely,

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