



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

T: [REDACTED]  
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk  
www.defra.gov.uk

By Email

Your ref: RFI 5611  
Date: 17<sup>th</sup> July 2013

Dear [REDACTED]

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Blocked URLs and Internet Speed Testing**

Thank you for your request for information about blocked URLs and internet speed testing, which we received on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2013. As you know, we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

My response to your questions is below.

**Can I get a list of urls (websites) currently blocked by IT administration in your department?**

Defra does not have a definitive list of websites that staff are not allowed to access. Access to certain categories of website is not permitted in line with our Acceptable Use policy, and our boundary defences continuously inspect and block websites that are deemed to be malicious.

**Can you please test and record the internet speed (in Mbps) taken from one computer in your department, using [www.speedtest.net](http://www.speedtest.net), at 10am, 1pm and 4pm each day, for one five-day working week, and then send me the results?**

The FOIA obliges public authorities to disclose only that information which they hold, subject to any applicable exemptions to disclose. The FOIA does not oblige public authorities to create information in order to answer a request, which this part of your request would require Defra to do, since we have not undertaken any process to gather information about internet speeds. Therefore in compliance with our obligations under the FOIA, I confirm that Defra does not hold the information that you are requesting in this part of your request.



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](http://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

Julie Knapton

## **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](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