

**Your ref:**

**Our ref:** RFI 6174

**Date:** 6th February 2014

## **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON PARTNERSHIP FUNDING APPROACH TO FLOOD DEFENCE SPENDING**

Thank you for your request for information about Partnership Funding, which we received on 13 January 2014. We have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

Following careful consideration, we have decided not to disclose some of this information.

I enclose a copy of the information which can be disclosed:

- “Partnership funding approach to flood defence spending”.

The report of Defra Research Project FD2663 is being withheld as it falls under the exception in regulation 12(4)(d) of the EIRs, which relates to *‘material which is still in the course of completion, unfinished documents or incomplete data’*.

This exception applies as the report is undergoing Peer Review pending publication and is due for publication soon.

In applying this exception 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 the report of Defra Research Project FD2663. On the other hand, there is a strong public interest in withholding the information because this would interfere with the usual validation process that all government research projects undergo. A research paper that has not been peer-reviewed or signed off at senior level, as appropriate, may be regarded as incomplete, given the possibility of further amendments. The public interest is met by the publication of properly informed and peer-reviewed scientific research.

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



It is however due for publication shortly and will be publicly available at that time on the Defra Science Research homepage, where there is a search function for all Defra science and research publications. <http://randd.defra.gov.uk/>

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIRs, 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.

## Annex A

### Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

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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