



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

T:  
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk  
[www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

**Your ref:**  
**Our ref:** RFI 5868  
**Date:** 29 October 2013

Dear

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Cyanobacteria in Brooklands Lake**

Thank you for your request for information about the incidence of cyanobacteria in Brooklands Boating Lake which we received on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013. In that request you raised the following queries:

1. Was Defra involved in testing the levels of Nitrogen or Phosphorus?
2. Does Defra have any recommendations for testing for or reducing Nitrogen or Phosphorus in river water.
3. Can Defra provide you with any information (maps, reports etc) as to where the culverts are that carry the Teville Stream from Davison High School Field to where the River Ditch joins it in the Chesswood Farm Allotment Gardens.
4. Can Defra provide you with information on the riparian owner can be identified and encouraged to make sure that the passage of water through those culvers is not impeded.
5. Could Defra provide any guidance or support on this topic?

We have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

The EIRs apply to requests for environmental information, which is a broad category of information defined in regulation 2 of the EIRs. Public authorities are required to handle requests for environmental information under the EIRs. They give similar access rights to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Before I turn to replying to the detailed information you requested you should note that Defra is the government department responsible for policy and regulations on environmental, food and rural issues; whilst the Environment Agency is responsible for maintaining or improving the quality of fresh, marine, surface and underground water in England. In line with these differing responsibilities different information is collected and held by Defra and the Environment Agency.

For the requests you have made where the information you have requested is held by Defra, and is already publicly available and easily accessible to you in another form or format, regulation 6(1)(b) of the EIRs exempts Defra from providing a copy in response to



your request, I am however enclosing links to the relevant information for your easy reference. For ease of reference I will follow your numbering in answering your queries.

1. Was Defra involved in testing the levels of Nitrogen or Phosphorus?

Defra was not involved in testing the levels of Nitrogen or Phosphorus. The Environment Agency is responsible for monitoring and testing water quality in rivers in England which would include testing for Nitrogen and Phosphorus. Please see below for information on how to contact the Environment Agency.

2. Does Defra have any recommendations for testing for or reducing Nitrogen or Phosphorus in river water?

Water quality standards for implementation of the Water Framework Directive are developed by the [UK Technical Advisory Group](#). The standards are listed and set out in the The River Basin Districts Typology, Standards and Groundwater threshold values (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Directions 2009 see <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/water/wfd/documents/river-basin-typology-standards.pdf>

It has not yet been possible to establish standards for Nitrogen in rivers, although there is guidance regarding good farm practice in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones which are designated on all land draining to and contributing to nitrate pollution in "polluted" waters in England. Please see <https://www.gov.uk/nitrate-vulnerable-zones#introduction> for further information.

3. Can Defra provide you with any information (maps, reports etc) as to where the culverts are that carry the Teville Stream from Davison High School Field to where the River Ditch joins it in the Chesswood Farm Allotment Gardens?

Defra does not hold such information. Please see below for information on how to contact the Environment Agency who might hold such information or be able to provide you with a contact.

4. Can Defra provide you with information on the riparian owner can be identified and encouraged to make sure that the passage of water through those culverts is not impeded.

Defra does not hold such information. Please see below for information on how to contact the Environment Agency who might hold such information or be able to provide you with a contact.

5. Could Defra provide any guidance or support on this topic?

I have provided links as above to the specific guidance we hold but you might also find of interest the introduction to the regulations and work which is being carried out to improve water quality at <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/improving-water-quality/supporting-pages/planning-for-better-water> ).

## Contacting the Environment Agency:

As noted above detailed information regarding the monitoring, testing and collection of data for monitoring Nitrogen and Phosphorus at local level will be held by the Environment Agency. Worthing sits within the Solent and Southdowns regional area of the Environment Agency operations and the contact details to which information requests should be sent are [ssdenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:ssdenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk). The contact details I enclose are in e-mail format but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require postal details. You should note that depending on the nature of your request that there may be a charge associated with your request, which will be advised by Environment Agency colleagues.

Alternatively, we can transfer your request to the Environment Agency, but before doing so we need your permission to notify those bodies of your name and contact details. If you agree to this, please either sign and return to me the declaration at the foot of this letter or email me at the address below, quoting the reference number and date of this letter and stating that you authorize the transfer of your information request.

I attach an annex 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

T: 020 7238 6000

M:

F:

✂ .....  
.....

**RFI** [add RFI number]

I, [insert applicant's name], hereby authorise Defra to transfer my information request to  
[name of other public authority]

Signature: ..... Date: .....

Name in BLOCK CAPITALS .....

## **Annex**

### **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