



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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

**Our ref: RFI 5905**  
**Date: 18/10/2013**

Dear

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:** Freedom of Information request concerning catering suppliers

Thank you for your request for information about Freedom of Information request concerning catering suppliers which we received on 24/09/2013. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I enclose a copy of the information you requested:

1) The percentage of fresh meat purchased by your organisation or its sub-contractors that is of British origin.

**Approximately 57% of the fresh meat served by our catering provider is British, with the remainder (comprising cured meats) being sourced from the EU. 100% of beef, lamb, chicken and pork joints are sourced from the UK. The remainder of the fresh meat is made up of gammon and bacon which has always been purchased from EU.**

2) The percentage of frozen meat purchased by your organisation or its sub-contractors that is of British origin.

**Our catering provider does not use frozen meat.**

3) The percentage of meat-related products purchased by your organisation or its sub-contractors that is of British origin.

**All of the processed beef served by our catering provider originates from, and is processed in, the UK and Ireland and 88% of all the meat-related products\* sourced are British.**

**All milk and eggs are sourced from the UK.**

\* 'meat-related' products are defined as processed and savoury meat products e.g. sausages, burgers, pies and pasties.

4) Whether you require your suppliers to only supply the organisation with fresh meat of British origin. **No**

5) Whether you require your suppliers to only supply the organisation with frozen meat of British origin. **No**



6) Whether you require your suppliers to only supply the organisation with meat related products of British origin. **No**

7) Whether you require your suppliers to only supply the organisation with milk of British origin. **No**

8) Whether you require your suppliers to only supply the organisation with milk-related products of British origin. **No**

9) Whether your contracts with organisations that provide catering services or other food related services to your organisation include a clause requiring them to only use/buy British fresh meat. **No**

10) Whether your contracts with organisations that provide catering services or other food related services to your organisation include a clause requiring them to only use/buy British frozen meat. **No**

11) Whether your contracts with organisations that provide catering services and other food related services to your organisation include a clause requiring them to only use/buy British meat-related products. **No**

**Defra's catering providers say they are "fully committed to supporting British farmers and growers and champions the use of great British produce and seasonal British ingredients". Under the terms of the contract they are also required to comply with the Government Buying Standards for food.**

<http://sd.defra.gov.uk/advice/public/buying/products/food/standards/>

**Also note the February 2013 report on compliance**

<http://sd.defra.gov.uk/documents/GBS-DefraCateringContractAssessment-Feb2013.pdf>

**Please note that country of origin information for meat and meat products is published on consumer menus, with 'British' shown within the descriptor where appropriate.**

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

Estates Correspondence Team

[Estates.correspondence@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Estates.correspondence@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

## **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