



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Your ref:
Our ref: RFI 6240
Date: 25 February 2014

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: WRITTEN OR ELECTRONIC BRIEFING NOTES/LETTERS ON VISIT TO THE SOMERSET LEVELS ON SUNDAY 26TH AND MONDAY 27TH JANUARY 2014.

Thank you for your request which we received on 28 January 2014 concerning all the detailed written or electronic briefing notes/letters provided by the Environment Agency to the Minister Owen Patterson for his visit to the Somerset Levels on Sunday 26th and Monday 27th January 2014. We cited before that we were treating your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) but after gathering the information we have decided to handle 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).

Please find attached EA briefing that was given to the Minister Owen Patterson prior to his visit on Sunday 26th and Monday 27th January 2014.

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 us at:
fmpso@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours,

Flood Management Team