



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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**Our ref:** RFI 6330  
**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: FOR ALL COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE LEGAL AND POLICY TEAMS AT DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS REGARDING THE HUNTING ACT 2004, FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2013 TO PRESENT**

Thank you for your request for information about all correspondence, meetings and discussions with both legal and policy teams at Defra, which we received on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2014. We are handling your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search of our records has shown that we have received 80 pieces of correspondence received by Defra officials relating to the Hunting Act 2004 between 1 January 2013 to Friday 7 February 2014. I have attached a selection of these letters and our response in Annex A.

With regard to meetings, the Secretary of State met with the Countryside Alliance on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2013 and discussed the efficacy of the Hunting Act 2004, along with other topics.

Since January 2013 and the present day, Defra officials have had no meetings with external organisations or other Government Departments about the Hunting Act. However, Defra officers did exchange emails with the Ministry of Justice, between November and December 2013, seeking up to date statistics on the number of prosecutions under the Hunting Act 2004. This can be found in Annex B.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact us at [rural.communities@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:rural.communities@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

Yours,

Defra, Rural FOI Team



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IN PEOPLE