



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Our ref: RFI 6906
16 October 2014

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Cost of proposals to extend the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Thank you for your request for information about the cost of Natural England's proposals to extend the Yorkshire Dales National Park, which we received on 20 September 2014. As you know, we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

In your email of 20 September you mentioned that you are interested in the outcome of the June 2013 Public Inquiry into the proposed westwards extension of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. You said that your request is to establish the costs of the project so far (which you said is called the 'Lakes to Dales Landscape Designation project' according to the Natural England website), including the 2013 Public Inquiry. You added that you are interested in why the Secretary of State has not responded to the Inspector's report and are puzzled over the lack of progress.

You referred to the proposed extension of the Yorkshire Dales National Park but also mentioned the wider name of the Natural England project (i.e. the Lakes to Dales Landscape Designation project). For clarity, the Public Inquiry was into proposed extensions to the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Parks and the costs cannot be separated for each of these. Therefore this response is in relation to the proposed extensions to both the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District National Parks.

The costs to Defra to date, including for the public inquiry, are £122,360. This comprises (rounded up to nearest £10 in each case):

Planning Inspectorate costs:	£95,550
Cost of inquiry manager:	£15,350
Notice of Inquiry:	£1,900
Venue for pre-inquiry meeting:	£590
Venue for inquiry:	£8,970

In addition there are costs of staff time which have not been quantified.

You were also interested in why a decision has not been taken on the extension proposals. In relation to this we do not hold any recorded information. The Secretary of State is considering the report carefully and will make a decision in due course. In view of



recent Ministerial changes it is right that the Secretary of State has time to consider the report fully.

I can confirm that additional information relevant to your query about the costs of the project is held by Natural England. You can contact Natural England at foi@naturalengland.org.uk or by post to Natural England Enquiries Team, Customer Services, Block B, Government Buildings, Whittington Road, Worcester, WR5 2LQ. Alternatively we can transfer your request to Natural England but, before doing so, we need your permission to notify it 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.

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 that you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact the address below.

Yours sincerely,

Defra FOIA and EIRs Team
InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk

✂.....

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I hereby authorise Defra to transfer my information request to Natural England

Signature: Date:

Name in BLOCK CAPITALS

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) 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