



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

T: 03459 33 55 77 or
08459 33 55 77
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

By email:

Your ref:
Our ref: RFI 6849
Date: 08/10/2014

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: ISSUANCE OF CONTRACTS

Thank you for your email of 26 August 2014 requesting information about the total number of contracts put out for tender by core Defra in 2010 and 2013 and how many of those contracts were awarded after a tendering process in which only one contractor submitted a bid. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I apologise for the delay, we are currently experiencing a high number of EIRs/FOIA requests making it difficult to respond within the deadlines.

This response includes core Defra and those bodies in the Defra network served by the core Defra procurement team at that time – the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency, the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew and the Marine Management Organisation.

We regret that we are unable to provide full information in response to this request as it would incur disproportionate cost. This is because there were significant numbers of procurements (for research and development) performed through a paper based process in the earlier year and we would need to review individual records for each of these in order to provide the information sought.

In order to assist you as far as possible, although it does not form part of your request, I am enclosing the table below, which provides statistics drawn from our online eTendering portal. We have split out the figures for research in the year so that you can draw some sort of comparison between the two years (though please see the explanatory notes below the table).

Period	Total number of eTender exercises**	Contracts awarded to single bid tender responses
1 Jan 2010 – 31 Dec 2010*	47 (excl R&D)	8 (excl R&D)
1 Jan 2013 – 31 Dec 2013***	87 (Non R&D) 93 (R&D)	18 (Non R&D) 17 (R&D)



* Covers procurements over £25k only. All procurement exercises below £25k but above £10k followed the request for quote process for which we do not hold central records.

** Total number of eTenders is a combination of tender exercises covering Open, Closed and Framework call-off procurement routes.

*** Covers procurements over £25k between 01/01/2013 and 31/03/2013 and then procurements over £10k as of 01/04/2013 when lower value procurements were centralised. In November 2012, Defra began competing Research & Development (R&D) projects through the eTendering Portal, which has contributed to the increased number of tender exercises run through the system.

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.

Should you be unhappy with the service that you have received you will find contact details at Annex A.

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

Annex A 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 within 40 working day of the date of this letter. Please write to David Waller, Head of Public Request for Information Advice Service Team at Area G07, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR (email: requestforinformation@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, you have 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 contact at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF