



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Your ref:
Our ref: RF7098
Date: 21 January 2015

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: The agenda, minutes, meeting papers and list of attendees for the visit by Defra Chief Scientific Advisor Ian Boyd to Oxford University Department of Zoology on 20 January 2014, and any associated correspondence. All communications and meetings between Defra and Oxitec Ltd. since 1st January 2013. Ref. RF17098

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 9 December 2014 about the visit by Ian Boyd to Oxford University on 20 January 2014 and all communications with Oxitec since 1 January 2013. As you know we have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs). I apologise for the delay in replying.

When we notified you of the subject matter of the meeting in Oxford on 20 January, you confirmed you did not require details of this meeting and that your request should be confined to Defra contacts with Oxitec. Following careful consideration, we have decided not to disclose some of this information. I enclose a copy of the information which can be disclosed, which consists of e-mail correspondence between Defra and Oxitec with various documents relating to experimental mosquito releases in Panama.

A very small part of the information you requested is being withheld as it falls under regulations 12(3) and 13(1) (third party personal data) of the EIRs, as the information constitutes personal data relating to third parties. This data consists of names and contact details of people sending or receiving the correspondence disclosed. Regulations 12(3) and 13(1) of the EIRs provide that personal data relating to third parties is exempt information if disclosure would breach the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).

We consider that disclosure of this information is likely to breach the first data protection principle in Schedule 1 to the DPA, which relates to the fair and lawful processing of personal data, in two ways. First, disclosure would not constitute 'fair' processing of the personal data, second, disclosure would not satisfy any of the conditions for data



processing set out in Schedule 2 to the DPA. Therefore, we have concluded that this information is exempt from disclosure under regulation 12(3) and 13(1) of the EIRs.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIRs, 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.

We attach Annex A, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you. We 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.

Yours sincerely

Defra FOIA and EIRs Team

InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk

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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