



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

██████████
████████████████████

Our ref: RFI 6283
Date: 05/03/2014

Dear ██████████

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Independent Expert Panel

Thank you for your request for information about the Independent Expert Panel (IEP), which we received on 7 February. We have handled 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).

Following careful consideration, we have decided not to disclose some of this information.

Your questions and the responses are below.

Q1: I note from your reply that you say minutes were not taken at the IEP meeting on 9 November 2013. Please can I have copy of personal notes taken during the meeting by the members of the IEP?

The personal notes of the IEP are not held by Defra. Therefore regulation 12(4)(a) (information not held) applies.

Q2: Please let me know the standard consultant fee for an IEP member and the number of days billed to date for each member of the IEP.

The standard charge per day attendance at meetings is £237 and the charge per day for preparatory work, such reading, correspondence report writing, is £118.50.

The number of days billed by each panel member varies at present as claims for meeting and work days have been 76 and 94 respectively.

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.

I have attached an annex giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Defra TB Programme

Email: ccu.correspondence@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Annex

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