



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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

Via e mail only

Our ref: RFI 6532
Date: 19 May 2014

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Rhydymwyn Site, Building 45 - Bats

Thank you for your request for information about bats at Building 45, which we received on 22 April 2014. As you know, 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).

Setting out the information requested:

With regard to the Secretary of State's assertion that " Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has expressed concern the bat colonies were not thriving compared to other colonies in North Wales, and made clear it will prosecute anyone found to be in breach of legislation relating to bats." I wish to make a Freedom of Information Request

1. For all documentation supporting the above statement including

Please see attached documents.

2. All bat surveys specific to this site covering the last eight years and further

Please see attached documents.

3. How (NRW) made it clear to Defra such a threat of prosecution specific to this site.

Please see attached documents.

4. For NRW to identify those licences and state who holds them.



Defra does not hold records of wider holders of bat records in North Wales. A licence is held by staff at North East Wales Wildlife (NEWW), Defra's contractor at Rhydymwyn. Details are set out in the attached documents.

5. NRW to document what is the proper advice?

Defra holds no records on this.

6. What is the appropriate qualification for such a bat expert?

Please find below NRW's guidance on 'Applying for licenses to undertake standard survey work on bats' which is available to download from the NRW website:

<http://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/content/docs/word/apply-and-buy/protected-species-licensing/applying-for-licences-to-undertake-standard-survey-work-on-bats-english?lang=en>

7. Please provide full details of all of the occasions when such groups have accessed Building 45 in the last three years.

DEFRA does not hold records of this, but a summary is provided by NEWW in the attached documents.

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.

Please find attached Annex A, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you.

Please also find attached Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

Yours sincerely

Defra Estates Correspondence
E mail: estates.correspondence@defra.gsi.gov.uk

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