



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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

[REDACTED]
(Via email only)

Our ref: RFI 6686
Date: 26/06/2014

Dear [REDACTED],

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: MARINE CONSERVATION ZONE ECONOMIC
IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Thank you for your request for information about Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) economic impact assessment, which we received on 29/05/2014. 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).

The information requested is currently in the public domain and the below links will assist in answering your enquiry:

Regional MCZ project impact assessment materials -
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/2071071>

Designation of Marine Conservation Zones in English Inshore waters and English and Welsh Offshore waters first tranche Consultation Impact Assessment -
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/82721/mc-z-designate-ia-20121213.pdf

Designation of Marine Conservation Zones in English Inshore waters and English and Welsh Offshore waters first tranche Final Impact Assessment –
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/impacts/2013/190>

First tranche Marine Conservation Zones consultation document and Government responses
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/marine-conservation-zones-consultation-on-proposals-for-designation-in-2013>



MCZ selection process -

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/221041/pb13896-mcz-selection-process.pdf

Further information on the process undertaken for the Marine Conservation Zone Economic Impact Assessment (IA) including key elements to be considered within the Quality Assurance process is provided in Annex C. However, each Government Department is responsible for their own Quality Assurance process and therefore the aspects considered within this process may differ from those used elsewhere in Government.

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 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 you have received.

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

Yours

[REDACTED]

E: [REDACTED]

Annex A

Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

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Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).

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

Annex C

Two IAs are produced – a consultation IA and a final IA which is refined following consultation responses and any new evidence submitted during consultation. All the steps below are valid for the consultation IA. For the final IA, step 3 onwards only is valid.

- 1) **Policy Appraisal Statement (PAS) Meeting/Form:** At policy conception meet with your Better Regulation Relationship Manager, policy team and all relevant analysts to discuss whether regulatory or non-regulatory approach is best, and whether an IA or fast track IA is required, and fill in PAS form.
- 2) **For IAs**, meet with senior economist or Deputy Director to agree overall approach to the IA before IA is written or analysis commissioned internally or externally.
- 3) Once IA is drafted, Policy to send to **Better Regulation Relationship Manager for sign-off.**
- 4) **For IAs.** Chief Economist sign-off is required for IAs where undiscounted costs > £20m p.a., or controversial or sensitive policy; all other IAs..

When requiring **Chief Economist sign-off:** 1) obtain Policy Director sign-off; 2) local economist comments on IA, 3) economist Deputy Director signs-off with a sign-off statement that (s)he is happy with the quality of the analysis in the IA, 4) economist from another Directorate uses the economist peer review checklist to review the IA, 5) Briefing session with Defra's Chief Economist is arranged in advance; 6) When relevant chief economist reviews the IA and signs-off.

- 5) **For all IAs**, policy team sends final "IA" and another copy of the "IA" with all track changes showing changes since last RM sign-off to Better.regulation@defra.gsi.gov.uk . RM signs-off "IA" and sends to the Regulatory Policy Committee.
- 6) **If the IA, receives a red opinion** from the Regulatory Policy Committee, then the revised "IA" return to step 3) above and follow the steps sequentially, dependent on the type of IA before the Better Regulation RM re-submits the IA to the Regulatory Policy Committee.

In relation to the quality assurance process there are some key elements which are normally considered within the MCZs Impact Assessment, which can be summarized below:

- A very brief and succinct summary of why MCZs are needed and the impacts of the suite of sites;
- A clear statement of why MCZs are needed;
- Description of the activities in each sector in the absence of MCZs (this is provided only for activities that will be impacted on). This is known as the 'baseline' scenario in the IA;
- The costs of the impact of the suite of MCZs on each relevant sector. These costs are assessed relative to the baseline;
- The benefits, which are assessed in terms of the impact on ecosystem services.