



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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

Our ref: RFI 6418

Date: 10 April 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL'S APPLICATION FOR
WALPOLE BAY TO BE DEDESIGNATED AS A BATHING WATER**

Thank you for your request for information about Thanet District Council's application for Walpole Bay to be removed from the list of bathing waters designated under the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC, revised by 2006/7/EC), which we received on 18 March 2014 and for your email of the same date requesting a copy of Thanet District Council's submission. 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).

I enclose copies of the information you requested:

- Document 1: An extract from a report to Defra from the Environment Agency (EA) about actions on bathing waters at risk of failing to meet the Sufficient classification of the Bathing Water Directive
- Document 2: Email from EA to Defra 18 November 2013
- Document 3: Internal Defra email 18 November 2013
- Document 4: Email from EA to Defra 20 November 2013
- Document 5: Email from EA to Defra 22 November 2013
- Document 6: Email from Defra to Thanet District Council 27 November 2013
- Document 7: Email from EA to Defra 28 November 2013
- Document 8: Email from EA to Defra 6 January 2014
- Document 9: Email from Thanet District Council to Defra 21 February 2014 (this email and its attachments were also sent as hard copies)
- Document 10: Email from Defra to Thanet District Council 21 February 2014
- Document 11: Email from EA to Defra 28 February 2014



- Document 12: Email from Defra to Thanet District Council 5 March 2014
- Document 13: Email from EA to Defra 5 March 2014
- Document 14: Defra internal email 14 March 2014
- Document 15: Email from Defra to Marine Conservation Society 17 March 2014
- Document 16: Email from Marine Conservation Society to Defra 19 March 2014
- Document 17: Email from Defra to EA 19 March 2014
- Document 18: Defra internal email 19 March 2014
- Document 19: Email from Defra to Marine Conservation Society 19 March 2014
- Document 20: Email from Thanet District Council to Defra 19 March 2014
- Document 21: Email from Defra to EA 20 March 2014
- Document 22: Email from EA to Defra 20 March 2014
- Document 23: Email from Defra to environmental NGOs 20 March 2014
- Document 24: Email from Defra to environmental NGOs 20 March 2014
- Document 25: Email from Defra to EA 20 March 2014
- Document 26: Email to Defra from a member of the public 25 January 2014
- Document 27: Emailed reply from Defra 28 January 2014
- Document 28: Email to Defra from a member of the public 31 January 2014
- Document 29: Email to Defra from a member of the public 5 February 2014
- Document 30: Emailed reply from Defra 6 February 2014
- Document 31: Enquiry to Defra from a member of the public 6 February 2014
- Document 32: Emailed reply from Defra 6 February 2014
- Document 33: Email from EA to a member of the public, copied to Defra 11 February 2014
- Document 34: Email from EA to a member of the public, copied to Defra 17 February 2014
- Document 35: Email to Defra from a member of the public 6 March 2014
- Document 36: Emailed reply from Defra 7 March 2014
- Document 37: Email to Defra from a member of the public 14 March 2014
- Document 38: Emailed reply from Defra 14 March 2014
- Document 39: Email to Defra from a member of the public 5 March 2014
- Document 40: Defra reply 6 March 2014
- Document 41: Email to Defra from a member of the public 15 March 2014
- Document 42: Defra reply 18 March 2014
- Document 43: Walpole Bay beach surveys Environment Agency summary to accompany Documents 4,9 and 17
- Document 44: Thanet beaches bathers 2013 Environment Agency attachment for Document 7
- Document 45: Defra guidance on designation and designation of bathing waters to accompany Document 6
- Document 46: Walpole Bay raw data, to accompany Documents 8 and 9
- Document 47: Walpole Bay 2013 survey data (of usage across the beach), to accompany Documents 8 and 15
- Document 48: Information displayed on Thanet District Council for consultation, to accompany Document 9
- Document 49: Letter to Defra from Thanet District Council to accompany Document 9
- Document 50: Walpole Bay map to accompany Document 9
- Document 51: Email and letter responses to Thanet District Council consultation to accompany Documents 9 and 20
- Document 52: Walpole 2012 investigation maximum + average intestinal enterococci, to accompany Document 11
- Document 53: Walpole 2012 investigation maximum + average E.coli. to

- accompany Document 11
- Document 54: Draft Defra consultation document on Walpole Bay to accompany Document 12
- Document 55: Walpole Bay map to accompany Document 15
- Document 56: Walpole Bay Survey Data (Document 47) with Defra workings

Names and contact details have been redacted from the documents that have been supplied, with the exception of Defra officials who deal with the Bathing Water Directive and, in the responses to Thanet District Council's consultation, the names of local councillors.

As you know, we are currently running a consultation about Walpole Bay and to date we have received 46 responses. We are considering these separately and they have not been released with this reply.

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 sincerely,

Kate Hedges

Policy Adviser – Bathing and Shellfish Waters

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Annex A

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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