



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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

Your ref:
Our ref: RFI 7028
Date: 19 December 2014

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: UK ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES AND R1 SCORING

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 17 November, requesting "an Excel list of all UK EfW facilities with their R1 efficiency scoring under the WFD as well as the R1 calculation data for each facility". As you know, we have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

The attached spreadsheet *R1 Plants October 2014.xls*, which originates from the Environment Agency, lists all the formal R1 plants in England. In this table, the last two columns show the R1 factor based on plant design values (i.e. a theoretical calculation) and on operational data as submitted by the plant operators, depending on whether the plant is operational.

The R1 factor is a performance indicator for the level of energy recovery from waste. It is determined as the ratio of the energy produced from the process over the energy contained in the waste corrected as necessary for external process inputs e.g. additional fuel, and losses e.g. heat lost to residues. Where the value of R1 is greater than 0.65 the process can be classed as a recovery operation.

You will also wish to note that the majority of EfW plants in England would meet the R1 designation were they to formally apply to the EA to seek such designation. However, there is no requirement to apply and not all plants seek designation. Details of how plant operators may apply to receive R1 status can be found in the online document:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/361544/LIT5754.pdf.

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that Defra does not hold the information for each and every facility in England nor does Defra hold information for plants in other parts of the UK, as waste is a devolved matter.

The information is therefore exempt under regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIRs, which relates to information which is not held at the time when an applicant's request is received. Regulation 12(4)(a) is a qualified exception, which usually means that a public authority is required to conduct a public interest test to determine whether or not information should be disclosed or withheld. However, the Information Commissioner, who is the independent



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regulator for requests made under the EIRs, takes the view that a public interest test in cases where the information is not held would serve no useful purpose. Therefore, in line with the Information Commissioner's view, Defra has not conducted a public interest test in this case.

However, you may wish to contact the following organisations to enquire whether they hold the information that you have requested:

Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Strathallan House
Castle Business Park
Stirling
FK9 4TZ
Email: foi@sepa.org.uk

Natural Resources Wales

Access to Information Team
Tel: 0300 065 3000
E-mail: atiteam@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk
Website: www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

Department of the Environment Northern Ireland

Pat Dougan
FOI Co-ordinator
Email: foi@doeni.gov.uk.

Environment Agency

I understand that the EA has already contacted you – their reference number NRDEC11. Freedom of Information (FOI) and Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) requests
PO Box 544
Rotherham
S60 1BY
Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
Main switchboard 03708 506 506

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 the address below.

Yours sincerely,

Defra FOIA and EIRs Team

InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk

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) 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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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