



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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Our ref: RFI 6936-6937
Date: 5 November 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: New Family Test for IAs

Thank you for your requests for information, which we received on 7th October 2014 about the new Family Test for Impact Assessments. I apologise for missing the deadline. We are experiencing a high volume of requests at the moment.

As you know, we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). You asked whether this department had received guidance on how the family test would be implemented and if yes, when it was received and to ask for copy.

I can confirm that at the time of receiving your request the guidance was still under review and being prepared for publication. I am pleased to say that the guidance has now been published by the Department of Work and Pensions and can be found on the GOV.UK website at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/family-test-assessing-the-impact-of-policies-on-families

You also asked how this department will assess the impact of domestic policy to ensure that it meets the “supporting family life” test announced by the Prime Minister on 18 August and what criteria the department would use to make this assessment and what the estimated costs of ensuring the policy is compliant with the “supporting family life” test will be. The guidance sets out clearly how departments should apply the test for all future policies. Since this will form an integral part of the policy development process, it is not possible to determine the particular cost of this aspect of policy making either in general or for a particular policy.



I attach an annex giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service that 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

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