



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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

Our ref: RFI 6717
30 July 2014

Dear

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: MEETINGS AND CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN
HRH PRINCE CHARLES AND DEFRA ON GMOs BETWEEN 2008 and 2014**

Thank you for your request for information on meetings and correspondence between the office of HRH Prince Charles and Defra in relation to GM crops between 2008 and 2014. We received this 6 July 2014 and as you know we have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

Following a search of our records, I have established that the information that you have requested is not held by Defra.

The exception at regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIRs there applies to your request. This exception applies in cases where the public authority does not hold the requested information 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 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.

I can confirm that to the best of our knowledge the information is not held by another public authority.

I attach an annex 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



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