



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

T: 03459 33 55 77 or
08459 33 55 77
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Our ref: RFI 7086

23 January 2014

Dear [REDACTED],

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: REQUEST FOR THE RELEASE OF UNPUBLISHED
WATER AND FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT RESEARCH PROJECTS**

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 24 November 2014, about water and flood risk management research projects. We have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs). We apologise for the delay in replying to you.

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).

Following careful consideration, we have decided not to disclose some of the information held by Defra that you have requested. Also, we do not hold some of the information that you have requested.

The information that you have requested in respect of Defra research project FD2628 (Review of Indirect Impacts of Climate Change on Dams and Reservoirs), which was completed in 2011, is attached.

The information that you have requested in respect of Defra research project WT0982 (Revision of Draft National Standards on Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) - Implementation of Schedule 3 of Flood and Water Management Act 2010) is available via the internet but I attach a copy for ease of reference for you.

The information that you have requested in respect of Defra research project FD2655 (The Use of the National Population Database Tool and Appropriate Other GIS Data and Information Layers, Existing Mapping and Modelling to Produce an Evidence-Based Report, Describing the Impacts of a Severe East Coast Flood) is exempt from disclosure under the exception at regulation 12(5)(a) (national security) of the EIRs.

In applying this exception, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure.

We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosure of information concerning water and flood risk management research projects. On the other hand, there is a strong public



interest in withholding the information because the report contains information on certain critical infrastructure assets where the loss or compromise of those assets would have a major detrimental impact on the availability or integrity of essential services, leading to severe economic or social consequences, or to loss of life. Disclosure of this information put those assets and services at risk which would also put individuals' lives at risk. Therefore, we have concluded that, in all the circumstances of the case, the information that you have requested in respect of Defra research project FD2655 should be withheld.

The information that you have requested in respect of Defra research project FD2667 (The Use of Roads to Evacuate and/or Shelter People (east coast)) is not held. The project has not been completed and so the report has not yet been drafted. Therefore, Defra does not hold the information that you have requested in respect of this research project.

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,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.A small black rectangular redaction box covering the name of the sender.

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 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 [REDACTED], 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