



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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www.gov.uk/defra

Ms [REDACTED]

By email: [REDACTED]

Your ref: 786/14
Our ref: RFI 6919
Date: 21 October 2014

Dear Ms [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: TOWN AND VILLAGE GREENS APPLICATIONS

Thank you for your request for information about applications to commons registration authorities in Yorkshire to register land as a town or village green under section 15 of the Commons Act 2006, which we received on 23 September. We have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs) as the information falls within their scope.

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).

The majority of the information that you have requested is not held by Defra. Information relating to applications and their success or otherwise may be held by the thirteen Commons Registration Authorities in Yorkshire, which process the applications to register land within their areas. They are the following Councils: North Yorkshire County, York City, Leeds City, Hull City, Sheffield City, Bradford Metropolitan District, Doncaster Metropolitan Borough, Kirklees Metropolitan, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough, Wakefield Metropolitan District, East Riding of Yorkshire and Calderdale Councils.

There is an appeal process for applications under section 14(b) of the Commons Registration Act 1965, but please note that it applies to all registrations, not just new greens. Defra neither collects nor holds information on how many such cases there have been, but the Ministry of Justice, which oversees Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service, may do so.

Every two years, Defra conducts a survey of registration authorities in relation to town and village green applications. Completion of the survey is voluntary. The results of the survey are published at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/registration-of-new-town-and-village-greens-2013-survey> Consequently, Defra holds some raw data which



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falls under the scope of your request. I enclose a copy of this information which relates to the number of applications received and refused. The data from the 2013 survey is publicly available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/registration-of-new-town-and-village-greens-2013-survey>. A spreadsheet containing the data for the surveys conducted in 2007, 2009 and 2011 is attached.

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