



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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[www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

Our ref: RFI 6519

Date: 12 February 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: All communications between Defra and GM industry, including the Agricultural Biotechnologies Council, EuropaBio and their member companies, regarding the EU Commission and Greek Presidency's GM cultivation proposals (and any proposed amendments of these), since 1st September 2010.**

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 15 April 2014, about Defra contacts with the GM industry about the Commission and Greek Presidency's GM cultivation proposals since 1 September 2010. We have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs). I apologise for the delay in replying.

I enclose a copy of the information requested, which consists of e-mail correspondence between Defra and the ABC and member companies, as well as documents sent to us by EuropaBio. Some of the relevant information we hold has been supplied in responses to other enquiries:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/communications-and-meetings-with-europabio>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/responses-to-2010-defra-consultation-on-cultivation-of-gm-crops>.

A very small part of the information you requested is being withheld as it falls under regulations 12(3) and 13(1) (third party personal data) of the EIRs, as the information constitutes personal data relating to third parties. This data consists of names and contact details of people sending or receiving the correspondence disclosed. Regulations 12(3) and 13(1) of the EIRs provide that personal data relating to third parties is exempt information if disclosure would breach the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).

We consider that disclosure of this information is likely to breach the first data protection principle in Schedule 1 to the DPA, which relates to the fair and lawful processing of personal data, in two ways. First, disclosure would not constitute 'fair' processing of the personal data, second, disclosure would not satisfy any of the conditions for data processing set out in Schedule 2 to the DPA. Therefore, we have concluded that this information is exempt from disclosure under regulation 12(3) and 13(1) of the EIRs.




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](http://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](mailto:InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

## Annex A

### Copyright

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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 [REDACTED] Head of Information Standards, Area 4D, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: [requestforinfo@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto: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