



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

Our ref: RFI 7673

14 August 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: NEONICOTINOIDS**

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 29 July 2015. You requested that we provide the agenda, minutes and list of attendees for the meetings held in the week preceding your request in relation to the proposed use of neonicotinoid seed treatments during the autumn 2015 planting season. As you know, we have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (the EIRs).

We have interpreted your request to refer to meetings held during the week commencing Monday 20 July 2015, being the week immediately preceding your request, and relating to the recent issue of emergency authorisations for the use of pesticides containing neonicotinoids. However, please let me know if we have misinterpreted your request.

There was one meeting in the week commencing 20 July 2015, which was held on 21 July 2015 to discuss applications for emergency authorisations for the use of pesticides containing neonicotinoids.

There was neither an agenda nor any minutes for this meeting. Therefore, this information is not held by Defra.

With regard to the information relating to the attendees that you have requested, we can disclose the names and roles of the Minister and officials in the Senior Civil Service (SCS) and the roles of non-SCS staff who attended the meeting. However, we are withholding the names of the non-SCS staff.

The names of the non-SCS staff who attended the meeting are being withheld under regulation 12(3) read in conjunction with regulations 13(1) and 13(2)(a)(i) of the EIRs, as the information constitutes personal data relating to persons other than you. These regulations provide that personal data relating to other persons is exempt information if disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles in 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. Disclosure would not constitute 'fair' processing of the personal data because the information relates to non-SCS members of staff who are not public-facing officials and who would not expect their names to be publicly disclosed.



The information that we are disclosing in response to your request is as follows:

Name	Position
The Rt Hon George Eustice MP	Minister of State for Farming, Food and the Marine Environment
Arwyn Davies	Head of Chemicals, Pesticides and Industrial Emissions
A non-SCS official	Member of Defra's News and External Communications Team
Two non-SCS officials	Members of Defra's Farming Sectors Team
Two non-SCS officials	Members of Defra's Pesticides Policy Team
A non-SCS official	Member of the Chemicals Regulation Directorate of the Health and Safety Executive (CRD/HSE)
A non-SCS official	Member of the office of the Minister of State for Farming, Food and the Marine Environment

Information disclosed in response to this EIR request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIRs and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk), together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

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,



  
**Defra FOIA and EIRs Team**  
**Area 4C, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR**  
[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 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: [InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:InformationRequests@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