



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Our ref: RFI 7335
20 March 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: FARM ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE BUDGET

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 24 February 2015, about the budget of the Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC) for the financial years 2012/13 and 2013/14. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) as the information that you have requested is not 'environmental information' as defined in regulation 2(1) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Therefore, your request comes within the ambit of the FOIA.

Before I provide the response to your request, I apologize that the letter emailed to you on 6 March 2015 incorrectly stated that we had received your request on 25 February 2015. In fact, as noted in the first paragraph, Defra received your request on 24 February 2015.

The responses to the questions that you raised in your request are below (I have reproduced your questions in bold, italicized text for ease of reference):

1. What was the FAWC total Budget for the tax years 2012/13 and 2013/14?

In each of the financial years 2012/13 and 2013/2014 the total budget for FAWC was £296,000.

2. What was the total expenditure by the FAWC for the tax years 2012/13 and 2013/14?

Total expenditure on FAWC for 2012/13 was £284,000 (Annual Review 2012/2013 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/farm-animal-welfare-committee-annual-review-2012-to-2013>). Please click on the 'facts and figures' hyperlink in the contents list) and for 2013/2014 was £286,000 (Annual Review 2013/2014 – provisional unpublished).

2. Of the total expenditure by the FAWC for the above tax years, how much of those funds were spent on all and any issues that pertain to Shechita, and Halal meat that is not stunned prior to Slaughter?

3. How much money was spent by the FAWC in the tax year of 2012/13 and 2013/14 on all and any issues that concerned the labelling of all Kosher and Halal meat?

4. The Westminster Debate held on Monday as a result of an E-Petition confirmed that the mis-stunning of animals at Slaughter is a huge problem here in the UK. The debate further confirmed that this problem involves many more animals than those



Slaughtered by way of Shechita and Halal Methods in the UK combined. Of the total expenditure allocated by the FAWC for the tax years 2012/13 and 2013/14 how much money was spent by the FAWC on issues concerning the issue of the mis-stunning of animals at slaughter here in the UK?

5. Of the FAWC's total expenditure in the tax years 2012/13 and 2013/14, how much of that money did the FAWC spend on campaigning/arguing for/proposing for all meat in the UK that was mis-stunned at slaughter in the UK to be labelled as such?

Defra does not hold the information requested at 2 (the second No. 2 of your request), 3, 4 and 5 of your request. This information is not held by another public authority. Neither time allowances nor financial expenditure are allocated or recorded against individual pieces of advice. Therefore, it is not possible to calculate the budget spend on a specific issue.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and the government's Transparency Agenda, replies to FOIA requests are releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, this letter and the information released to you may now be placed 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 any information that would identify you.

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,




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InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Annex A

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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) 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
