



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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

Our ref: RFI 7319

31 May 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: EXPORT OF PIG MEAT AND OFFAL TO CHINA IN 2011/2012**

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 17 February 2015, about the export of pig meat and offal to China in 2011/2012. As you know, we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I apologize for the delay in replying to you.

Your request of 17 February is, in fact, a 'narrowing down' of the request that Defra had received on 20 January 2015. In your email of 17 February 2015, you stated that you required that the information that you had requested in your email of 20 January 2015 is to cover 2011 and 2012 only. In addition, you referred to [REDACTED] letter, also dated 17 February 2015, and requested the name of the Defra official who had made a note of a meeting between Defra/AHVLA<sup>1</sup> and the Director of Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) China on 12-16 March 2012

For ease of reference, I set out the details of your request below (I have numbered the parts of your request: parts 1) – 5) are the items of information that you had requested in your email of 20 January 2015 with the addition in your email of 17 February 2015 that you require the information only for 2011 and 2012, and part 6) is the additional request for information that you included in your email of 17 February 2015):

- 1) details of any and all meetings between Defra personnel and Chinese representatives where export of pig meat and/or pig offal to china was discussed. To include names of Defra personnel involved and minutes of such meetings;
- 2) details of any correspondence (letters and emails) between Defra, AHDB/BPEX and any other UK Government agencies with regards to the export of pig meat and/or pig offal to China;
- 3) any other Defra correspondence relating to the export of pig meat and/or pig offal to China;
- 4) [names of] all of the parties and individuals involved in the development of a document relating to export of pig meat to China, this form is entitled - OWNER / MANAGER DECLARATION FOR ABATTOIR FOOD CHAIN INFORMATION



- 5) FORM FOR HERDS OF ORIGIN FOR EXPORT OF PIG MEAT TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA - has a reference number of 7006ANNB 6/10/2011 and can be located at this web address: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animal-trade/files/ehc7006annb.pdf>; and
- 6) the name of the Defra official who wrote the note of the meeting between Defra/AHVLA<sup>1</sup> officials and the Director of Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) China on 12-16 March 2012

I confirm that Defra does hold some of the information that you have requested.

I detail our response to your request below (the numbering below corresponds to the above numbers that we have associated with your request).

In response to part 1) of your request, I enclose the details of meetings held in 2011/12 between Defra and the Chinese representatives.

In response to part 2) of your request, I enclose a copy of correspondence between Defra and the British Embassy in Beijing regarding the export of pig meat.

With regard to part 3) of your request, Defra does not hold the information that you have requested. All correspondence held by Defra is being disclosed to you in response to part 2) of your request.

With regard to part 4) of your request, the document relating to exports of pig meat to China that you mention was produced by Defra/AHVLA<sup>1</sup> and Food Standards Agency Officials regarding the traceability of meat for export to the farm of origin to meet the requirements of the Chinese authorities.

With regard to part 5) of your request, the information is disclosed to you via the hyperlink at 5) above.

With regard to part 6) of your request, the name of the Defra official is withheld in accordance with sections 40(2) and 40(3)(a)(i) of the FOIA as explained in the following paragraph.

With regard to the information being disclosed to you in response to parts 1) and 2) of your request and the information that you have requested at parts 4) and 6) of your request, we are withholding the names of officials and other individuals under sections 40(2) and 40(3)(a)(i) of the FOIA, as the information constitutes personal data relating to persons other than you. These sections 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 officials were not in senior positions or in public-facing roles and so they would not reasonably have expected their names to be made public and the other individuals would also likewise not have expected their names to be made public.

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<sup>1</sup> Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency, now called the Animal and Plant Health Agency

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 do 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**

**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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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](#).

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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: [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