



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

T: 03459 33 55 77 or
08459 33 55 77
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www.gov.uk/defra

Our ref: RFI 7719

14 September 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: CORRESPONDENCE WITH SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS
ON NEONICOTINOIDS**

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 12 August 2015, requesting “all correspondence with all independent scientific advisers (i.e. not those with a vested interest, like those from the agrochemical industry) prior to the department deciding to break the EU ban on these environmentally dangerous chemicals”. As you know, we have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs). I apologize for the delay in replying to you.

Most of the information that you have requested (i.e. the scientific information provided by the ECP) is available from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) website. You will wish to note in particular the [detailed record of discussion](#) from the ECP’s meeting of 20 May 2015, and the subsequent summary minutes of the [ECP meeting](#) held on 7 July 2015. You may also be interested to see the ECP’s [Advice to Ministers](#). Please note that the detailed record of the July meeting will be published shortly after the next meeting (scheduled to convene on 22 September 2015), so you may wish to view these details on HSE’s website at that point.

As the information you have requested is already publicly available and easily accessible to you in another form or format, regulation 6(1)(b) of the EIRs exempts Defra from providing a copy in response to your request.

Defra’s Chief Scientific Advisor (CSA) Professor Ian Boyd, whose role is to provide independent advice to Ministers and to ensure quality, fit-for-purpose science throughout Defra, also considered the evidence provided by the applicant and subsequently provided advice to Ministers on this issue. I enclose a copy of the information you requested:

- Annex A - The CSA’s opinion of 18 May 2015 of the 1st application;
- Annex B - The CSA’s opinion of 9 July 2015 of the 2nd application (N.B. this advice was incorrectly dated 9 June 2015).

Please note these documents have now been declassified following our decision that they should now be disclosed and put in the public domain. Therefore, the ‘official sensitive’ heading on the documents is no longer applicable.



Information disclosed in response to this EIRs 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 C, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you.

I also attach Annex D 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,

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

Annex C

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Annex D

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) 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