



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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Our ref: RFI 8010  
25 January 2016

Dear

### **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: PROPOSED RESERVOIR AT ABINGDON**

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 23 December 2015, about public money spent on Thames Water's proposals for a reservoir at Abingdon. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Defra only holds information about the public enquiry and related proposals. In 2009 the, then, Secretary of State called for a public inquiry on Thames Water's water resources management plan. This is a plan that sets out proposals by the company to secure a supply and demand balance for water over the long term. The public consultation on Thames Water's plans had raised a number of concerns that were examined at the inquiry. The plan included a proposal for a reservoir at Abingdon. The cost to Defra (and therefore, the public) from the public inquiry was £62,000. Costs that related to consideration of the reservoir proposal are subsumed within that sum and not accounted separately.

Other public authorities may hold information in relation to your request, for example the local authorities (Abingdon Town Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, Oxfordshire County Council), the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Planning Inspectorate and the Environment Agency.

Information disclosed in response to this FOI request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on [GOV.UK](http://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,



**Area 4C, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR**  
**Information Rights 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 Nick Teall, Head of Information Rights, Area 4C, 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