



Department
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Food & Rural Affairs

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Our ref: FOI2018/19166
8 October 2018

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Pest Controllers and Costs Since April 2013

Thank you for your request for information of 10th September about Pest controllers and costs to the Department since April 2013. We have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

The EIRs apply to requests for environmental information, which is a broad category of information defined in regulation 2 of the EIRs. Public authorities are required to handle requests for environmental information under the EIRs. They give similar access rights to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

For information, Defra owns an estimated 100 sites across the country, which include a number of large campus sites and rural/farm sites. The Department has a contract for pest control that covers the following organisations: core-Defra, Animal and Plant Health Agency, Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Marine Management Organisation, Natural England, Rural Payments Agency and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate.

The contract provides planned preventative maintenance and reactive maintenance in accordance with Best Industry Standards in respect of Pest Control Services. The contract emphasizes delivering discrete and safe prevention measures whilst minimising impacts on biodiversity and using environmentally-friendly and sustainable products and methods at all times.

We enclose a copy of the information you requested:

Financial Year	Number of pest controller call outs	Cost of call outs
2013/14	36	£49,304.02
2014/15	49	£198,495.66
2015/16	58	£182,827.92
2017/18	40	£159,176.81



2018/19	28	£149,853.32
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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.

We attach Annex A, explaining the copyright that applies to the information being released to you, and 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

Information Rights Team
InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Annex A

Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

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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 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Nick Teall, Head of Information Rights, Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF (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's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF