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[Redacted]

By email: [Redacted]

Our ref: FOI2020/17184
28 July 2020

Dear [Redacted],

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Defra Legal Costs and Ex Gratia Payment to Badger Cull Company

Thank you for your request for information of 1 July 2020 about Defra legal costs in relation to a recent Judicial Review and an ex gratia payment to the Derbyshire Cull Company. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your request for information along with our response is summarised below;

Please disclose the following information:

- 1. Defra's legal costs in relation to this judicial review.*

We are writing to inform you that the information here is not held by Defra. Defra external legal costs in relation to this judicial review are currently being calculated and have not been finalised. Work by Defra lawyers, which would be part of the total legal costs, is not cost accounted against staff time so it is not possible to give a figure for this.

- 2. The amount of money that was paid to the Derbyshire cull company (which I understand to be T&G Stone Ltd) as an ex gratia payment.*

The amount paid ex gratia by Defra to T & G Stone Ltd is included in evidence adduced in the judicial review, which should be available from the High Court. As the information you have requested is already publicly available and accessible to you in another form or format, section 21 of the FOIA exempts Defra from providing a copy of the information with this response to your request.

However, for ease of reference we can confirm that it amounted to £56,596.

Information disclosed in response to this FOIA 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, 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

[Redacted]

Information Rights Team

InformationRequests@defra.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 ^[Redacted], Head of Information Rights via email at InformationRequests@defra.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's offices are currently closed so please visit their website on how to contact them during this period, here:

<https://ico.org.uk>