



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

Seacole Building  
4th Floor  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

T: 03459 33 55 77  
helpline@defra.gov.uk  
[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

[Redacted]

By e-mail: [Redacted]

Our ref: FOI2023/12600  
19 July 2023

Dear [Redacted],

### **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: CCTV in slaughterhouses**

Thank you for your request for information of 27 June 2023 about CCTV in slaughterhouses. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

*I write to request, under EIR/FOI, copies of responses from the following organisations to Defra's request for comments to inform its post implementation review of mandatory CCTV in slaughterhouses:*

*RSPCA, Halal Certification Organisation, Animal Equality, Morrisons, Animal Aid, British Veterinary Association, Shechita UK, British Poultry Council, Compassion in World Farming, Red Tractor Assurance.*

We enclose a copy of the information you requested in the attached Annexes C to J.

After careful consideration we have decided that some of the information in the Annexes should be withheld under sections 40(2) and 40(3A) of the FOIA as the information constitutes personal data relating to persons other than you. These sections exempt personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of that information would breach any of the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

We consider that disclosure of this information is likely to breach the first data protection principle, which provides that personal data must be processed lawfully, fairly, and in a transparent manner. Disclosure would not constitute 'fair' processing of the personal data because s/he would not reasonably have expected her/his name to be made public, and the junior civil servants involved would also not reasonably expect their names, roles and contact details to be disclosed in relation to this request for information.

We have also decided that some of the information you requested should be withheld as it falls under the exemption in section 41(1) of the FOIA, which relates to information provided to Defra in confidence.

The exemption under section 41(1) of the FOIA applies insofar as the information you requested was obtained from another person who attached explicit conditions of



confidentiality, and because the information is not otherwise accessible. Under these circumstances, we consider that disclosure would constitute an actionable breach of confidence. There is also a strong public interest in maintaining confidentiality as other organisations in similar circumstances may be discouraged from confiding in public authorities in the future if they don't have a degree of certainty that this confidentiality will be respected. The result may be to diminish government's ability to achieve successful outcomes in this matter or in other similar matters in the future.

Finally, we have also decided that some of the information in scope of your request should be withheld as it falls under the exemption at section 43(2) of the FOIA, which relates to information which if disclosed would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the third parties involved.

In applying this exemption, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure.

We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosure of information concerning transparency of discussions with businesses working with government, which can facilitate accountability and fairness. We also recognise that release of such information would further public understanding of the issues surrounding the operation of slaughterhouses.

However, there is a stronger public interest in withholding this information because Defra needs to ensure that third parties are not discouraged from engaging with Defra for fear that the information they provide will become public and in doing so risk damage to legitimate commercial activities. In some cases, disclosure of such information would be to the detriment of the third parties as the detail it contains is of commercial value to them and the disclosure of this could cause economic harm to these third parties and commercial advantage to others not privy to the information. Release of the information would therefore prejudice the commercial interest of the third parties that have chosen to engage with Defra on this issue and we have concluded that in all the circumstances of the case, the information should be withheld.

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](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 the address below.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

**Information Rights Team**  
[InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk](mailto: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.

Most documents produced by Defra will be protected by Crown Copyright. Most Crown copyright information can be re-used under the [Open Government Licence](#). For information about the OGL and about re-using Crown Copyright information please see [The National Archives website](#).

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](#).

---

## 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 <sup>[Redacted]</sup>, Head of Information Rights via email at [InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk](mailto: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 can be contacted using the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/>