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[Redacted]

By email: [Redacted]

Our ref: FOI2024/19306
5 November 2024

Dear [Redacted]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Visits to farms by Ministers since 5 July

Thank you for your request for information of 16 October 2024 about visits to farms by Ministers since 5 July. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below:

The amount of farms that the Secretary of State or Ministers have each visited since the 5th July 2024 to the 15th October 2024.

If the information can be separate so each Minister's individual amount of visits is listed. If the names of the farms and their locations could also be listed.

Please see the table below for the information requested:

Defra Minister	Farm visits (between 5 Jul and 15 Oct)
Secretary of State	1
Minister Zeichner	8
Minister Hardy	0
Minister Creagh	0
Baroness Hayman of Ullock	1

We have decided that information regarding the names and locations of the farms visited 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 the third parties involved would not reasonably expect the names and locations of their businesses to be disclosed in relation to this request for information.

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 us.

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 they 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/>