

Mr Benjamin Addison
request-1689-4e4ef643@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref FOI138
Date 11 September 2008

Dear Mr Addison,

Provision of requested information

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 18 August 2008. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In that request you asked for a list of payments made to the RSPB over the last 18 years (showing what the payment was for).

Defra came into being in June 2001. From the information held centrally on the core – Department's financial system, the total amount of payments from then to date is £6,475,158.13

To provide you with a list of payments since 2001 would take numerous man hours of effort to interrogate a multitude of databases. The Department has estimated that it will cost more than the appropriate limit to meet your information request. The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the Department or third parties holds the information and locating, retrieving and extracting the information before considering whether absolute or qualified exemptions apply. Consequently, the department is not obliged by the Act to respond to your request.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint, you should write to Clive Porro, Head of Defra's Access to Information Unit at, Area1E 3-8 Whitehall Place London SW1A 2HH, who will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure can be found at: www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/opengov/complain/index.htm.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have 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

Yours sincerely

Shona Paul
Procurement Information Coordinator
Procurement and Contracts Division