

2nd March 2010

Our ref: RFI #662

Your ref:



request-28444-e91da4b9@whatdotheyknow.com

The Quadrant
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Newcastle-upon-Tyne
NE15 8NZ

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Dear Ms Davis

Environmental Information Regulations 2004 – Extension of time – RFI #662

I am writing to advise you that the time limit for responding to your request for information under the Environmental Information Regulations, which we received on 5th February 2010, needs to be extended.

The Regulations allow us 20 working days to respond to your request from the date of its receipt. However, it is occasionally necessary to extend the 20 working day time limit for issuing a response. In this case, I regret that we must extend the time limit for responding by 20 working days to 6th April 2010 because of the complexity and volume of the request.

The information you have requested covers a considerable time period and involves a large amount of information. Owing to the sensitive nature of the subject, some of the information will, as you acknowledge in your initial request, need to be considered for redaction. This process will involve going through all the information manually to consider whether it is appropriate for release and if not to apply the public interest test. Due to the large amount information we will need to look through to do this, in this instance it is necessary to extend your request by 20 working days.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint, please contact Darren Green, Block B Government Buildings, Whittington Road, Worcester, WR5 2LQ. Under Regulation 11(2) this needs to be done no later than 40 working days after the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Natural England. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone: 01625 545 700, www.ico.gov.uk.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me.

Yours sincerely

Ben Heathcote
Knowledge Management & Information Services