

Date: 02 June 2010
Our ref: RFI756
Your ref:

Northminster House
Northminster Road
Peterborough
PE1 1UA
**NATURAL
ENGLAND**

Dear Mr Griffiths

Environmental Information Regulations 2004 – Invitation to narrow down or clarify request – Request No.765

Thank you for your request for information of 28 May 2010, which falls under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Natural England wants to be as open as possible in answering requests and to help people obtain the information they are looking for.

Unfortunately, the amount of information you have requested is very substantial, and gathering it together would be likely to involve a significant cost and an unreasonable diversion of resources from key delivery work areas.

This could mean that we may have to refuse the request under the exceptions in the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 covering requests that are manifestly unreasonable or formulated in too general a manner.

To provide all the information you have requested would exceed the £450 “appropriate limit” for our response as stated in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The EIR fees regulations allow us to set a nominal charge £25 per hour therefore this equates to 18 hours.

An exercise has been undertaken in estimating the workload involved in providing the 127 licence applications you have requested.

We have estimated that it would take an average of 2 hours to locate and photocopy each file(s). This is an estimate based on a time of 30 minutes to locate and copy the smallest file and 6 hours for the largest. Multiply this by the number of applications you have requested (127) it would take approximately 254 hours to complete the task. The EIR fees regulations allows us to set a nominal charge of £25 per hour therefore this would give an equivalent cost of £25 x 254 hours = £6,350 required to search, extract and copy information from the paper and electronic files.

Therefore, the best way that we can help you is to ask you to consider whether you could narrow down your request by identifying which applications you would most like us to provide. You could do that by sending us a revised list with the applications you would most like us to provide in order of priority eg with the most important one at the top and least important at the bottom etc. We will then provide as many applications as we can within the 18 hour time frame, according to your prioritised list.

If you are unable or unwilling to narrow down your request we will, of course, consider it in accordance with our obligations under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. However,

we wanted to give you an opportunity to reconsider your request and describe more precisely the information you wish to have.

Please let me know how you would like us to proceed.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Waterfield
Adviser – Information Access & Security