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Our ref: 27-07-2009-110153-001

12 August 2009

Dear Mr Cooper

Re: Freedom of Information

Your email dated Sunday 26 July 2009 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked: a) Has the Met Office carried out (or procured) an assessment of the Effectiveness of CRUTEM3 quality-control procedures and/or of the adjustments for non-climatic influences.

b) If it has done so, please provide me with summary details of the assessment or assessments, providing enough detail for me to refer to a particular assessment in a future request – such detail to include the approximate date of the assessment, its unique title, and a summary of the result.

The Met Office does not hold this information.

We have not undertaken any in-house assessment of the effectiveness of the CRUTEM3 quality control and homogenisation process. The only analysis in this regard which we have been involved in is that detailed in Brohan et al., 2006. The procedures are well documented within the peer reviewed literature over the last twenty+ years – a full listing of which is available from <http://www.cru.uea.ac.uk/cru/data/availability/>. We have always concluded that the dataset construction processes are adequately documented in the peer reviewed literature. It should also be noted that HadCRUT has always been a collaborative effort with the Hadley Centre contributing the sea surface temperature component and the Climatic Research Unit providing and maintaining ultimate responsibility for the land component.

I hope this answers your enquiry.

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If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Head of Corporate Information, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-XD@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

FOI Manager