

Mr Carroll by e-mail

21 February 2011

Your Ref: 997

Dear Mr Carroll

**FOI REQUEST RE: CHEMICAL HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND RISK
SURVEILLANCE (CHaIRS) GROUP**

Further to my acknowledgement letter to you of 26 January, I am writing to confirm that I am now in a position to respond to your FOI request of 24 January requesting information regarding the work of the CHaIRS Group and specifically the minutes of their 7th meeting.

I can confirm that the CHaIRS Group did meet on 14 December 2010 and draft minutes of that 7th meeting are enclosed, for information. The Rhodia investigation is referred to under Any Other Business (pages 5-6 refer). Please note that as draft minutes, they are subject to confirmation at the next Chairs Group meeting, provisionally booked for March¹.

Regarding the detail of the Rhodia investigation and your query regarding which members of CHaIRS have been updated on the latest testing being carried out, I am afraid I am not in a position to answer this question, as the Food Standards Agency's involvement in this particular incident has been minimal. I therefore suggest you take this matter up with the Environment Agency, who are leading the investigation.

I can confirm that the CHaIRS Group will be continuing into the foreseeable future and dates for the 2011 meetings are currently being arranged.

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¹ Precise date to be agreed

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If you are not satisfied with the way the Agency has handled your request for information, you should write within two calendar months of the date of this letter to the Openness Team, and ask for an internal review. They will arrange for the Complaints Coordinator to conduct the review. Their address is Food Standards Agency, Room 2C Aviation House, 125 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6NH (email: Openness.team@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk).

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. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Agency. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or through the website at <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'JD Caseley'.

John Caseley
Incidents Unit
Food Standards Agency