

Mr Carroll by e-mail

12 May 2011

Your Ref: 1024

Dear Mr Carroll

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

Further to my acknowledgement letter to you of 26 April, I am writing to confirm that I am now in a position to respond to your Freedom of Information request of 20 April requesting information regarding the work of the CHaIRS Group and specifically the final minutes of their 7th meeting and the draft note of the 8th meeting.

Your request has been handled under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

The information you requested is not currently held by the Food Standards Agency because the minutes of the 7th CHaIRS Group meeting are in draft form¹ and are due to be finalised at the 8th meeting, which is not scheduled to take place until 16 May. Once finalised, I will arrange for the final minutes of the 7th meeting to be e-mailed to you.

You asked about dates of CHaIRS meetings over the coming year. I can confirm that meetings have been scheduled for the following dates:

- 16 May
- 14 July
- 6 October; and
- 5 December

You asked for advice on how members of the public can approach CHaIRS Group members to present information to them. I can confirm that meetings of the CHaIRS Group are not open to members of the public I would also like to reiterate a point made in earlier correspondence with you which is that the Environment Agency is 'leading' the Rhodia investigation. Consequently it

¹ This version was supplied to you on 21 February in response to an earlier FOI request (997)

would be up to the EA to share information with other members of the group as they see fit about the investigation and, where appropriate, obtain expert advice from members. If you have any new information regarding the investigation that you wish to be taken into consideration, I would advise you to send this directly to the Environment Agency.

I hope the above satisfactorily answers all your queries. However, 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