

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

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Mr Jack Elliot

Our ref: RFI 4758

[Request-114267-36f7c200@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:Request-114267-36f7c200@whatdotheyknow.com)

11 May 2012

Dear Mr Elliot

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: AGRICULTURAL WEALTH**

Thank you for your request for information on which we received on 21 April 2012 about Agricultural Wealth. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Taking your questions in the order you have raised them

1. How much are agricultural workers paid nationally?

Data from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings run by the Office for National Statistics shows that in 2011 for UK farm workers received a median pay (excluding overtime) of £7.75 per hour. This figure is representative of the ordinary farm workers not those in fully skilled and management positions.

2. What is the breakdown of pay for agricultural workers by region?

The pay for agricultural workers varies with region. Within England were paid most in the South West (£8.31/hr) and least in the West Midlands (£7.41/hr).

Full details can be found in the attached spreadsheet.

Farming Statistics contact: [Farming-Statistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Farming-Statistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

3. Which is the poorest village in the country?

Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are a census-based geography designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics. There are around 32,000 LSOAs in England. Poverty can be measured for these areas by using the income domain of the indices of deprivation (DCLG, 2010). This ranks all LSOAs in the country from 'most income deprived' to 'least income deprived'. This index can be combined with the rural-urban definition, which identifies rural areas as towns, villages or hamlets.

Using this approach, the most deprived village area in England is that containing the LSOA with the code E01007511. This is part of a village in Toll Bar in Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

4. In which area of the country is poverty amongst rural areas the highest?

Using the indices of deprivation the rural area ranked as most highly income deprived is in Tendring in Essex in the East of England.

5. In what area of the country is rural affluence most focused?

According to the indices of deprivation the rural area ranked as least income deprived is in Forest Heath in Suffolk in the East of England.

**Notes:**

Though the subject of this FoI request was 'agricultural wages', questions 3-5 refer to rural areas. It should be noted that agriculture makes up on a very small part of the rural economy (for example around 2% of rural Gross Value Added comes from agriculture, forestry and fishing). For further information see <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13642-rural-digest-2012.pdf>.

Index of Deprivation, 2010 at lower super output area level (income domain). Department for Communities and Local Government:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/indices2010>

Rural-urban definition at lower super output area level, 2004. Office for National Statistics

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/geography/products/area-classifications/rural-urban-definition-and-la/rural-urban-definition--england-and-wales-/index.html>

Rural statistics contact: [pippa.gibson@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pippa.gibson@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

I attach Annex A, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you.

I also attach Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

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

Yours sincerely

*Martin Fowell*

Dr Martin Fowell

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**Email** [martin.fowell@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:martin.fowell@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

## Annex A

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## Annex B

### Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Brendan Walsh, Head of Defra's Information Rights Team at Area1B, Ergon House, Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 2AL, (email: [informationrights@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:informationrights@defra.gsi.gov.uk)) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our [website](#).

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. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF