



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.defra.gov.uk

Spartacus
request-181741-2257e27e@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: RFI 5928
Date: 18/11/2013

Dear Spartacus,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Cage Trapping

Thank you for your request for information about cage trapping, which we received on 08/10/2013. We have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

The EIRs apply to requests for environmental information, which is a broad category of information defined in regulation 2 of the EIRs. Public authorities are required to handle requests for environmental information under the EIRs. They give similar access rights to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I am writing to advise you that the information that you have requested is not held by Defra.

The information is therefore exempt under regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIRs, which relates to information which is not held at the time when an applicant's request is received. Regulation 12(4)(a) is a qualified exception, which usually means that a public authority is required to conduct a public interest test to determine whether or not information should be disclosed or withheld. However, the Information Commissioner, who is the independent regulator for requests made under the EIRs, takes the view that a public interest test in cases where the information is not held would serve no useful purpose. Therefore, in line with the Information Commissioner's view, Defra has not conducted a public interest test in this case.

The information is therefore exempt under regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIRs, which relates to information which is not held at the time when an applicant's request is received. Regulation 12(4)(a) is a qualified exception, which usually means that a public authority is required to conduct a public interest test to determine whether or not information should be disclosed or withheld. Although the Information Commissioner, who is the independent regulator for requests made under the EIRs, takes the view that a public interest test in cases where the information is not held would serve no useful purpose, we have

considered this matter. We have concluded that it is not in the public interest for Defra to hold or seek to secure this information because, although it may be 'environmental information', it is not necessary or relevant for the fulfilment of Defra's functions.

However, under our duty to advise and assist applicants in pursuance of regulation 9, I can confirm that the information is held by Natural England, which can be contacted at *Enquiry Service, Block B, Government Buildings, Whittington Road, Worcester WR5 2LQ* or enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk. Alternatively, we can transfer your request to Natural England, but before doing so we need your permission to notify it of your name and contact details. If you agree to this, please either sign and return to me the declaration at the foot of this letter or email me at the address below, quoting the reference number and date of this letter and stating that you authorize the transfer of your information request.

I attach an annex 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,

Defra TB Programme
Ccu.correspondence@defra.gsi.gov.uk

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RFI 5885

I, Spartacus , hereby authorise Defra to transfer my information request to Natural England.

Signature:

Date:

Name in BLOCK CAPITALS

Annex

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 under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 18 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Mike Kaye, Head of Information Standards, Area 4D, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: requestforinfo@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, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you 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