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Our ref: 0030125/IR

6 November 2013

Dear Mr Millar

Internal Review under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

I am writing in response to your email of 16 October 2013 in which you asked for internal review of Met Office's processing of your request for information of 6 October 2013 under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

The purpose of this review is to consider whether the requirements of the EIR's have been fulfilled. Its scope is defined by the Code of Practice:
http://www.ico.org.uk/for_organisations/guidance_index/freedom_of_information_and_environmental_information#codes

You requested:

As you know aerial chemical spraying has been going on for approx 10 years over devon Commonly known as cloud seeding ,chemtrailling etc. However this spraying of dangerous chemicals has had a devastating effect on human health.A petition is in the process of being compiled with the aim of seeking compensation en masse.At this stage I have 3 questions. 1 where are the aircraft taking off from 2 Who is financing this multi billion pound human experiment 3 Why is your office allowing the atmosphere to be deliberately poisoned with health destroying chemicals(I have a list of them)?

This is my formal response following the independent review.

Procedural Issues

The original request was received on 6 October 2013 and an acknowledgement issued by the Met Office on 7 October 2013. Although not a requirement of EIR, it is considered best practice to acknowledge requests.

The final response was issued on 10 October 2013. This represents a period of 4 working days between receipt of the request and the response being issued. The response was within the target deadline of 20 working days as specified in EIR regulation 5(2).

You were informed in writing of your right to request an independent internal review of the handling of his request. The response also informed you of a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner.

The request was dealt with under the Environmental Information Regulations instead of the FOIA due to its relation to the weather and climate.

Consideration of the response

As part of the internal review, I have reviewed the use of aircraft for Met Office business. I can provide the following detail which assisted with my review and may be of interest to you;

The Met Office works with 2 aircraft, the FAAM BAe-146 aircraft based at Cranfield and the MOCCA (Met Office Civil Contingency Aircraft) based at Bournemouth. Occasionally we have operated out of Exeter airport as part of a scientific research campaign investigating specific meteorological conditions. The Met Office has never carried out or authorised aerial chemical spraying. Neither of the aircraft mentioned are, or ever have been fitted with a spraying capability. Their engines are standard aircraft engines and use normal aircraft fuel. The FAAM webpage contains information on what we are using the BAe146-301 aircraft for (www.faam.ac.uk).

Following consideration of the above information, the Met Office met the requirements by stating we do not hold the information.

As explained in our response, as far as the Met Office is concerned there are only condensation trails (contrails). We do not own or work with any aircraft which release chemicals into the atmosphere and we therefore do not hold any information in answer to your questions.

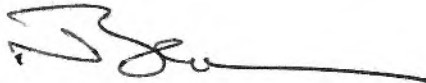
In conclusion, I am satisfied there was no procedural breach of the Regulations. I hope this letter meets your requirements for a review of your request.

If any aspect of this review is unclear, I would be happy to explain it.

If you are dissatisfied with the review, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of section 50 of the Act. Further details of the role and powers of the Commissioner can be found on his website at: www.ico.gov.uk. His address is:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, WILMSLOW, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Fax 01625 524 510.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Benson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Nick Benson
Head of Legal