

Ally Tibbitt

By email: request-521182-e4d9aa75@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Ref: SIR152469/A2759963

22 October 2018

Dear Ally Tibbitt

Information Request – Brexit Assessments

Thank you for your information request, which we received on 24 September. We are considering your request under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs). We are currently working on your request, but need some additional time to complete our response.

Your Request

“This is a Freedom of Information request. I am interested in information from held by your organisation that relates to the process of planning and preparing for a possible future when the UK may not be a member of the European Union ("Brexit").

In particular:

1. How much has been spent on external consultants or support to advise on the implications and consequences of brexit, or recommend actions to mitigate any possible brexit impacts? If spend has occurred, please confirm the name of the supplier or suppliers and copies of any material produced by this process.
2. Please supply copies of any brexit planning documentation held by the organisation or consumed by senior management. This may include, but should not be limited to, Risk Assessments, Action Plans, Meeting minutes, Reports and presentations.
3. Please supply technical or advisory briefing documentation on brexit that has been produced by the organisation and supplied to other government agencies or bodies.
4. Please supply copies of any technical or advisory documentation that has been supplied to the agency from other public bodies that relates to Brexit contingency planning.
5. Please supply details of any assessment that has been made of the financial impact on the organisation, either positive or negative, of the brexit process. Has the organisation set-aside a contingency fund or invested as a direct consequence of the brexit process? If so, please provide summary details.

Please provide the requested information in electronic format. I look forward to hearing from you in due course."

Our Current Position

We have completed our initial information searches, and we need to look through a large volume of information in order to respond to your request. We must carefully review this information for relevance and for any sensitive information (for example, personal data or environmentally sensitive data). Some sensitive information might need to be marked out (redacted) before we can send information to you.

Regulation 7 of the EIRs allows public authorities to extend the time for compliance with requests for up to an additional 20 working days. This means we must respond to your information request by 19 November at the latest.

How We Are Handling Your Request

You have asked us for environmental information as described by the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 ('the EIRs') so we are dealing with your request under those regulations. To be able to use the EIRs we have to apply an exemption under section 39(2) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 ('FOISA'). The Scottish Information Commissioner's guidance recommends that public authorities apply this exemption to environmental information.

If you would like to find out more about the access to information legislation, there is a guidance booklet available on the Scottish Information Commissioner's website, <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.aspx?IID=5487&SID=5024>.

Review and Appeal

We will issue a response to you as soon as we can within the next 20 working days. However, if you are dissatisfied with us taking additional time you have the right to ask us to review our decision to extend the time period. Please write to us within 40 working days at Battleby, Redgorton, Perth, PH1 3EW or email us at foi@nature.scot, explaining your concerns. We will carry out a review and provide an outcome within 20 working days.

If you are not satisfied following this, you can make an appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. The Scottish Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS

Telephone: 01334 464610

Online appeals: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal>

Website: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/>

Yours sincerely

Rhoda Davidson

Rhoda Davidson
Information Officer
FOI@nature.scot