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Allan Richards

By email: request-797559-0014780e@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: FOI2021/24650

15 October 2021

Dear Allan Richards,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Canal & River Trust Publication Data for 2020/2021

Thank you for your request for information of 6 October 2021 about the Canal & River Trust Publication Data for 2020/2021. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below:

I refer to-

GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS AND CANAL & RIVER TRUST section 7.3

However, in the event that CRT fails to publish the Publication Data by 1 September in each year, CRT shall ensure that the Chair of Trustees shall write to the Secretary of State with a copy to the members of CRT, explaining the reason for non-compliance and setting out the action proposed to remedy the non-compliance.

Historically, CRT has provided publication data by July 1 as an short extract from its annual report which is subsequently published later that month. Unfortunately, both publication data and annual report for the 2020/21 year have yet to be published.

This is particularly surprising bearing in mind the assurance CRT gave Defra at the grant review meeting on 20 April 2021. ("CRT expect to be able to meet the statutory timeline for publishing the 2020/21 Annual Report and Accounts in July.")

Please provide via whatdotheyknow.com a copy of the Chair of Trustees communication explaining the reason for non-compliance for the 2020/21 year.

Please also confirm if Defra has asked the Chair of Trustees to correct the similar letter provided for the previous year.

We can confirm that the information you have requested is held by Defra. The letter dated 31 August 2021 from the Chair of Trustees to the Secretary of State is attached at Annex

C.

In response to your final question, it is not understood to have been necessary to correct the previous year's letter.

Information disclosed in response to this FOIA request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk), together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

We attach Annex A, explaining the copyright that applies to the information being released to you, and 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

Jo Collinge
Information Rights Team
InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk

Annex A

Copyright

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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 under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Andrew Mobsby, Head of Information Rights via email at InformationRequests@defra.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's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted using the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/>