



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

T: :03459 33 55 77 or  
08459 33 55 77  
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk  
[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

Nick Heath  
by email [request-266439-2d2df88f@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-266439-2d2df88f@whatdotheyknow.com)

Our ref: RFI 7490

1 June 2015

Dear Mr Heath,

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: COMPUTERS RUNNING WINDOWS XP**

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 1 May 2015, about computers running Windows XP in Defra. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

The information that you have requested is being withheld as it falls under the exemption at section 31(1)(a) of the FOIA, which relates to crime prevention.

In applying this exemption, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure.

We recognize that there is a public interest in information relating to IT systems used by public authorities as it involves the use of public funds. On the other hand, there is a strong public interest in withholding the information because releasing version information relating to computers and software used by Defra would make our IT systems vulnerable to attack, and could facilitate the possibility of a crime (i.e. an attack against Defra's IT systems). Therefore, we have concluded that in all the circumstances of the case, the information should be withheld.

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 sincerely,

**David Waller**  
**Defra FOIA and EIRs Team**  
**Area 4C, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR**  
[InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk)



## **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: [InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:InformationRequests@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