



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Jonathan Sheppard
By email: request-473990-f6fde952@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: RFI 9879
4 April 2018

Dear Mr Sheppard,

INFORMATION REQUEST: IMPACT OF DISPOSABLE NAPPIES ON ENVIRONMENT

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 28 March 2018 about recent research on the impact of disposable nappies on the environment. 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).

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, we have established 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 (information which is not held at the time when an applicant's request is received). This 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's Office (ICO), who is the independent regulator for requests 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 ICO's view, Defra has not conducted a public interest test in this case.

Under our duty to provide advice and assistance we would like to highlight that the Environment Agency carried out Life Cycle Analysis comparing the impacts of disposable and reusable nappies in 2005 and this was updated in 2008. The reports can be found here: <http://www.nappyinformationservice.co.uk/environment.htm>

The Environment Agency may have information that you might find helpful. Their email address is enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk. One of our delivery partners, WRAP may also have some information which you may find helpful, their email address is info@wrap.org.uk

If you have any queries about this letter please contact the address below.

Yours sincerely,

Marie Taylor
Information Rights Team
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 Nick Teall, Head of Information Rights, Area 4A, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: 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