

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

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25 October 2011

Dear Captain Wayt

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST - EXERCISE SILVER BIRCH IP10 - DOES IT HAVE A PAPER TRAIL?

Thank you for your request for information, concerning the Exercise Silver Birch Evaluation and lessons learned report of March 2011, which we received on the 18 October 2011. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

In my letter to you of 31 August, I informed you that an update on the lessons learned will be published on the AHVLA website in the Autumn. This will be the final report on this exercise, and will be published once it has been approved by Defra and Devolved Administration Ministers.

As the information will be publicly available from the above source, we are exempt from providing a copy under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act, a full explanation about the reason for the use of section 22 is given below.

Providing information to you now would cause disruption to the planning schedule, causing disruption to staff involved in the publishing of the document. The document is currently in draft format at the moment (before publication) and therefore the information contained in it hasn't been approved and might not be accurate. The information will be released once approved, to all interested parties at the same time.

You also wrote to Lord Taylor on 16 September, copying him an email you had sent to Jim Paice, Nigel Gibbens and the Prime Minister. As we had responded to that email on 22 September, we will have nothing further to add to that correspondence.



In addition you emailed me directly on 22 September in regards to the timeline for getting samples from IP10. This followed on from my letter to you earlier that day, and we have nothing further to add to that letter. You are also asking the same question (Q6) in your FOI request above.

I also attach Annex A 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

JD Leach

John Leach
Email john.leach@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Annex A 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 within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Brendan Walsh, Head of Defra's Information Rights Team at Area1B, Ergon House, Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 2AL, (email: informationrights@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, you have 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

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