



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Ms Jessica Pardoe
By email: request-599996-ba31fd56@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: FOI2019/18316
9 September 2019

Dear Ms Pardoe,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Flooding Data

Thank you for your request for information of 27 August 2019 about Flooding Data. We have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

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).

The information you requested and our response are detailed below.

"I would like to submit a request on the following, please:

- *How much has been spent on flood defence in the years 2017, 2018 and 2019? - Can you break down the regions where this money has been spent?*
- *Can you break down the political parties who have contributed to this budget?*
- *Where has any additional budget allocated for 2019 been spent?*
- *How much was spent on average on dealing with the UK flooding in July and August 2019?*
- *Was the flood defence budget used on the dealing with the Whaley bridge dam issue? If so, how much was used?*
- *How many flooding instances have been recorded in the years 2017, 2018 and 2019? - Can you break this data down by region?"*

Where a request is formulated in too general a manner and could be refused under regulation 12(4)(c), the EIRs allow public authorities to request that applicants provide further particulars and require them, as far as it would be reasonable, to provide advice and assistance to applicants to enable them to describe more clearly the information requested so that the public authority can identify or locate it.



From our preliminary assessment, it is clear that we will not be able to answer your request without further clarification. We therefore require you to provide further information to enable us to identify and locate the information that you have requested. In particular please clarify whether you are referring to spend by Defra or by Government as a whole.

Please also clarify specifically to parts of your request:

“How much has been spent on flood defence in the years 2017, 2018 and 2019? -Can you break down the regions where this money has been spent?”

- Are you referring to the financial or calendar year?
- What do you include in the term “flood defence”?

“Where has any additional budget allocated for 2019 been spent?”

- What do you define as additional budget? Which departments would this include?

“How much was spent on average on dealing with the UK flooding in July and August 2019?”

- What do you define as “dealing with the UK flooding”? Is this across all emergency responders for example Environment Agency, Fire & Rescue Service, Local Authorities etc.?
- What scale would the average be based on?

“How many flooding instances have been recorded in the years 2017, 2018 and 2019? - Can you break this data down by region?”

- Please clarify what constitutes an instance of flooding.

Below is a link to Defra’s report on Central Government Funding for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in England which may help you:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/747328/Funding_for_flood_and_Costal_Erosion_in_England_Oct_2018.pdf

I have also attached a link to the Environment Agency’s annual reports on flood and coastal erosion risk management:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flood-and-coastal-risk-management-national-report>

These reports contain details of notable floods that occurred each year in England and the total number of properties flooded. Information for the 2018/19 financial year is currently being consolidated.

Please note that we only hold information for England, not for the whole of the UK. Can you confirm whether data relating to England is acceptable.

When you have clarified your request, we will be able to begin to process it. Please note that the 20-working-day timescale for responding to your request will commence from the date that we receive the clarification.

We 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

D Lynch
Information Rights Team
InformationRequests@defra.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 11 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.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 at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF