

Celia Higgs  
Email only

Our Ref: NRAUG63  
Your ref:  
Date: 29 August 2012

Dear Celia Higgs

**Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) / Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR)  
Provision of information – North Mill Avoncliff.**

We refer to your request for information, contained in your email of 21 August 2012. The request is:

*Please can you tell me how many 100kw hand-built DIY non accredited hydro turbines have been licensed? How many are operating and how the data of these unproven turbines is validated?*

Requests for information that is recorded are generally governed by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). The information you have requested is environmental and it is therefore exempted from the provisions of FOIA by FOIA s.39(1). We have therefore considered your request under the provisions of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). EIR regulation 12 allows a public authority to refuse to disclose environmental information if an exception to disclosure applies under paragraphs (4) or (5) and in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. A public authority shall apply a presumption in favour of disclosure.

To answer your query we would have to know the number of schemes that are accredited. We assume your enquiry relates to Micro Certification Scheme (MCS) accreditation that may be needed to access Feed In Tariffs (FIT's) for hydropower. The Environment Agency does not hold information on this accreditation scheme and therefore is unable to answer your query.

If this interpretation is not correct, please let me know as soon as possible.

Rights of appeal.

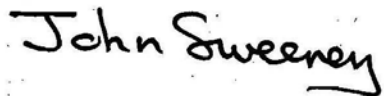
If you are not satisfied with our decision not to supply all of the requested information within 20 working days, you can contact us to ask for our decision to be reviewed. If you are still not satisfied following this, you can then make an appeal to the Information Commissioner, who is the statutory regulator for Freedom of Information. The address is: Office of the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. Tel: 01625 545700.

Fax: 01625 524 510.

Email: [mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk).

Website: <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>

Yours sincerely



JOHN SWEENEY  
National Permitting Service, Nottingham Centre Manager.