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Marta Nass
By email: request-1140977-16b0e8ab@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: FOI2024/11684
20 June 2024

Dear Marta Nass,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Management of Corporate Estates and Maintenance for the Plant Varieties and Seeds Tribunal

Thank you for your request for information of 20 June 2024 about the management of corporate estates and maintenance for the Plant Varieties and Seeds Tribunal (PVST). We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

I would be most grateful if you would provide me, under the Freedom of Information Act, the following information regarding the facilities management approach for Plant Varieties and Seeds Tribunal:

- *How are facilities management services (hard FM, soft FM or TFM) handled across their estates?*
- *If any services are outsourced, which services and to which suppliers?*
- *What are the start dates and durations of these contracts, including the end date, and which services are included in each?*
- *What are the values of the contracts?*
- *Is there an extension clause in the contract(s) and if so, what is the duration of the extension?*
- *Has a decision been made yet on whether the contract(s) are being either extended or renewed?*
- *What is the job title of the senior officer (outside of procurement) responsible for the contract(s)?*
- *Do you utilise any outsourced helpdesk or FM integrator services? If so, with which supplier(s)?*
- *Which software solution(s) are used to manage your corporate property/assets including facilities management (CAFM)?*

On 17 June 2024, an identical request was sent to Defra regarding the PVST which we responded to in full on 17 June 2024 (FOI2024/11604). In that letter we informed you that the information is not held.

You have now submitted the same request and as our position has not changed. We are not obliged to comply with this request for information in accordance with section 14(2), if it is identical or substantially similar to that which has been sent before.

Section 14(2) can be applied to your request of 20 June 2024 when:

- the request is identical or substantially similar to a previous request;
- the authority has previously complied to the earlier FOIA request; and
- a reasonable interval has not elapsed between the new request and compliance with the previous request

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 us.

Yours sincerely

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 Vanessa Drury, Head of Information Rights via email at InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk and they 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 using the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/>