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Mr B Addison (by email)

Our ref: RFI 2718

Date: 9 July 2009

Dear Mr Addison

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: WILDLIFE CRIME

Thank you for your request for information for discussions between Defra's policy advisors and the RSPB on the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime, since January 2006, which we received on 13 May 2009. We are dealing with your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is not held by Defra. Although discussions have taken place with the RSPB they have been on the telephone or in person, and a record of the conversations have not been kept.

I have outlined below details of contacts with the RSPB that have taken place to arrange meetings and seminars, to advise and assist you, but would like to stress that the information held in relation to these meetings/seminars is of an administrative nature (for example requesting attendance to meetings, update reports from Working Group Chairs, etc), and does not include discussions of the policy area you have requested.

The RSPB have been invited to attend annual Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW) Open Seminars, as delegates and sometimes to make presentations. Seminars took place on 28 February 2006, 13 February 2007, 27 February 2008 and 25 February 2009. All PAW partner organizations are invited to attend the seminars.

The RSPB have also been invited to attend, and sometimes to make presentations, to annual Police and Customs Wildlife Enforcement Conferences. Defra administered these events in 2006 (6-7 September) and in 2007 (9-11 October).

The RSPB is, by virtue of its Chairmanship of the PAW Publicity Working Group, a member of the PAW Steering Group. The Steering Group met on 17 January, 10 May and 13 September 2006; 17 January, 15 May and 20 October 2007; 6 February, 18 June and 20 October 2008; and 3 February and 18 June 2009.

Defra has contributed funding to support the publication of PAW leaflets on selected issues and has liaised with the RSPB, who as Chair of the Working Group have



responsibility for taking design and publication forward. Defra has also liaised with the RSPB on matters relating to the PAW Roadshow trailer to a) assist with or encourage other PAW partners to 'man' the Roadshow; b) remind PAW partners that the Roadshow is available for their use and c) arrange for payment to be made for a pitch for the Roadshow at the BirdFair.

Until December 2008, a PAW Bulletin was published after each Steering Group meeting and can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/paw/bulletin/default.htm> or are available from the Department. The Bulletins contain information summarized from Steering Group meeting minutes, including a brief update from each Working Group where appropriate.

PAW Working Groups are responsible for determining how best to take forward their activities. They report their progress to the Steering Group, either at meetings or by submitting written reports in advance.

The RSPB is also currently represented on the Forensic and other Working Groups. Defra communication with those groups is generally through the Working Group Chairs.

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In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIRs, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. The information you requested may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

If you have any queries about this letter, or require further information, please contact me. I also attach an annexe giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

Yours sincerely

Jane Withey
Biodiversity Programme

Annexe 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 Clive Porro, Head of Defra's Information Rights Team at, Area1B Ergon House, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AL, (email: informationrights@defra.gsi.gov.uk) who will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure can be found at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/complain/info.htm>

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
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF