



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Mr Cross
request-247764-8fa104c3@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: RFI 7213
Date: 18 February 2015

Dear Mr Cross

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: PEST REFERENCE LIST

Thank you for your request for information, which we received from FERA on 12 January 2015, about the pest reference list mentioned on the www.data.gov.uk website. We have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

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).

I enclose a copy of the information you requested:

- Excel document: FOI request pest reference list February 2015

The Pest Reference List is a core list of organisms (Invertebrates and micro-organisms) of relevance to plant health which contain 26709 pest records. Each record consists of Defra Plant Health's preferred scientific name and authority, synonyms and authorities, common names, a unique identification number and EPPO (European and Mediterranean Plant protection Organisation) code.

The dataset is owned by Defra but the information within it is maintained by the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA).

There are some caveats to the data:

1. The original core list was created by combining existing plant health information with data from the European and Mediterranean Plant protection Organisation.
2. As yet the list is not fully validated and a large proportion of the records still need checking by scientific experts from FERA. This means that there may errors in the data and that data may be missing, for example UK distribution and pest status codes. There is a rolling programme of validation and records are also reviewed when an organism is diagnosed/identified, pest risk analysis is undertaken or an organism is added to the Plant Health Risk Register.
3. The validated records are considered to be Defra plant health's official opinion, however it is accepted that there may be discrepancies with other similar sources of information.



In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIRs and the government's Transparency Agenda, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you will now be published on www.gov.uk together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. Please note that this will not include your personal data.

I attach Annex A, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you.

I also attach Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact the address below.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Heathcote
Defra FOIA and EIRs Team
InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Annex A

Copyright

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Annex B

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 18 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Mike Kaye, Head of Information Standards, Area 4D, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: requestforinfo@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, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you 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