

To: Mr Carroll

By email to: request-29950-53b10f45@whatdotheyknow.com

FOI 850

30 March, 2010

Dear Mr Carroll,

Freedom of Information Act 2000 request – CHaIRS group

Thank you for your request for information relating to the Chemical Hazard identification & Risk Surveillance Group (CHaIRS), specifically the group's terms of reference, role, membership and minutes of meetings held so far.

Your request was received by the FSA on 2 March 2010 and I am handling it under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Further to my letter of 11 March 2010, I am writing to confirm that the Food Standards Agency holds the information that you have requested.

As regards the information that we hold, it is occasionally necessary under section 10(3) of the Act to extend the 20 working day time limit for issuing a response. This is to allow public authorities to make a decision as to where the balance of the public interest lies. I, therefore, wish to advise you that the exemption under section 31(1)(g) in conjunction with 31(2)(a) to (c), which is subject to the balance of the public interest test, may apply to some of the information that you have requested.

In the case of your request, I must extend the time limit by 20 working days to enable the Agency to make a determination as to the balance of the public interest. Therefore, I anticipate sending you the Agency's response not later than 29 April.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Agency has handled your request for information, you should write within two calendar months of the date of this letter to the Openness Team, and ask for an internal review. The Team will arrange for the Complaints Coordinator to conduct the review. The Team's address is: Food Standards Agency, Room 2C Aviation House, 125 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6NH (email: Openness.team@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Agency. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's

Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or through
www.ico.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

pp John Caseley

John Caseley
Incidents Unit