



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.defra.gov.uk

Your ref: [REDACTED]
Our ref: RFI 5907
Date: 17 October 2013

[REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Climate Change Risk Assessment regional modelling

Thank you for your request for information about Climate Change Risk Assessment regional modelling, which we received on 18 September 2013. We have considered your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

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).

As explained by my predecessor, [REDACTED], we want to be as open as possible in answering requests. The EIRs also require us to provide advice and assistance to help people obtain the information they are looking for and make good use of the EIRs. Unfortunately, the amount of information you have requested is very substantial, and gathering it together would involve a significant cost and diversion of resources from the Department's other work.

By virtue of regulations 12(1) and 12(4)(b) of the EIRs, Defra may refuse to disclose environmental information if the request for the information is manifestly unreasonable and, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

We consider that your request is manifestly unreasonable under regulation 12(4)(b) on cost grounds and, having carried out the above public interest test, we have concluded that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest falls in favour of maintaining the exemption.



In reaching our decision with respect to the public interest, we considered the following matters:

We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosure of information concerning the calculated risk metrics for the high emission scenario at a regional level. In particular we are interested in increasing transparency, public understanding and participation of the UK's Climate Change Risk Assessment.

On the other hand, there is a strong public interest in withholding the information because the cost of extracting the data is unreasonable/disproportionate diversion of resources from the provision of public services, i.e. the authority's core functions.

Regulation 9 of the EIRs requires public authorities to provide advice and assistance to applicants where reasonable. We have therefore provided details below to assist you to formulate a request that can be handled at less cost.

The best way we can help you is to ask you to consider narrowing down your request to focus more clearly on the precise information you are seeking. You could, for example browse through the material that has already been made publicly available by Defra to see if this would help you to identify more precise questions that we might be able to answer at less cost.

Please note that we will handle your modified request as a new request. The 20-working-day timescale for responding to requests will therefore commence from the date that we receive the modified request.

I 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 me.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

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 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