

[mailto:request-211147-  
364f114a@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-211147-364f114a@whatdotheyknow.com)

Our ref: RFI 6586  
June 2014

Dear

### **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: AIR POLLUTION INFRACTION FINES LETTERS**

Thank you for your request for information about the emails Defra sent to local authorities in England (the Devolved Administrations did the same for their areas) to inform them of the EU Commission's decision to commence infraction procedures against the UK for non-compliance with NO<sub>2</sub> limit values.

By way of background, in February 2014 the Commission started infraction proceedings against the UK because the UK Supreme Court made a declaration that the UK was in breach of its obligations to comply with the limit values for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in the Air Quality Directive.

The infraction covers 16 zones (out of 43) which are the subject of the declaration made by the UK Supreme Court. These are zones for which the UK did not apply for a time extension under the Air Quality Directive because we could not demonstrate that they would meet the limit values by 2015.

We are committed to ensure compliance as soon as possible and are investing in transport initiatives to reduce local air pollution, especially in our towns and cities. For example, since 2010, over £1 billion has been invested in measures to promote the uptake of ultra-low and zero emission vehicle technologies.

You requested information on which local authorities were sent the communication; and when these communications were sent.

I can confirm that Defra sent emails to local authorities in England (the Devolved Administrations did the same for their areas) to inform them of the EU Commission's decision to commence infraction procedures against the UK for non-compliance with NO<sub>2</sub> limit values. These emails were sent in March 2014.

As you have already had sight of the letter I have not included it in this response.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIRs, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you may now be

published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

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 me.

Yours sincerely,

## **Annex A**

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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 within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Mike Kaye, Head of Information Standards, Area 1B, Ergon House, Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 2AL (email: [requestforinfo@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto: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, 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