From: Anderson, Rodney (MFD)
Sent: 29 April 2007 13:44
To: rodney.anderson@defra.gov.uk
Cc: Bowles, Geoff (MFA); robert latimer
Subject: RE: Defra letter 27 April still provides no answers.

Dear Robert

Thank you. Whilst I understand that you would prefer to be sent all the material requested before attending the meeting, it is felt here that a lot has been provided already and it would be more helpful all round if the meeting was held to clarify what has happened to date and to establish if there are gaps in the information provided up to now. You refer to the copious amount of information already sent. This was in response to your previous requests.

You will appreciate that I am not in my office as I send this reply. We will let you have have details of who can contact if you are not satisfied with the way in which we have suggested matters should proceed next.

I would be grateful if Geoff would let you have an answer to the query n your last paragraph.

Your sincerely

Rodney

From: robert latimer [mailto:robert@latimers.com]
Sent: 29 April 2007 12:59
To: rodney.anderson@defra.gov.uk
Cc: Bowles, Geoff (MFA)
Subject: FW: Defra letter 27 April still provides no answers.

Dear Rodney

I include the e-mail from Mr Bowles, this is in reply to my request that Defra (you) review my request for information under the FOI Act. As you can see, once again I have received no answers to my questions nor have I been supplied with information under the Act. Although it was my understanding that my request for a review would be handled by someone not previously connected with my original request, I hope you can understand that to receive a reply once again from Mr Bowles is rather upsetting considering my original request was made on 18th February. While I appreciate the invitation to come to London to discuss the issues I feel it is only common sense that first, all my questions are answered and secondly that the information under the FOI Act is provided. I am sure you will agree it would be ridiculous to travel all the way to London to only then get bogged down asking the same questions that, I have to say, Defra have seemed extremely reluctant to answer. The Mr Bowles excuses that - "there has been an extensive exchange of correspondence" - "We need to come to an understanding regarding which of your questions you consider have not been responded to and if appropriate" - "the questions are derived from the extensive exchange of correspondence" - this is why I am asking the questions they are all most appropriate yet I have received no answers. I have to say that at the stakeholders meeting I was neither impressed by Mr Bowles or Cefas, and remember it was Mr Bowles who telephoned to say that the PoT had refused to allow me to attend, something they denied, blaming Defra for not providing my name, had I just accepted what Mr Bowles had told me then I would have not attended the stakeholders meeting. The position of both Defra and Cefas providing mountains and mountains of correspondence only confuses the facts and does nothing to help our genuine concerns, which I suppose is really what is intended.

I am writing to you again as I believe my request for information under the FOI Act is not been adhered to by Defra under the terms of the Act. It is most important that my questions are answered and the information, as requested, is provided for each point so then we can proceed to have the meeting in London. If Defra are not going to provide the information as requested under the FOI Act,

would you provide details of how we contact the Information Commissioner and inform us so I can contact the Fishing News?

I wonder if you could help me further, I recently made an objection to the dumping at sea of the waste from the New Tyne Tunnel, as I understand from the local newspaper that the main contractor has now been appointed - could you tell us - has a licence been granted by Defra for the waste from the New Tyne Tunnel being dumped at sea?

Bob Latimer

-----Original Message-----
From: Bowles, Geoff (MFA) [mailto:geoff.bowles@defra.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 27 April 2007 12:49
To: robert@latimers.com
Cc: Anderson, Rodney (MFD)
Subject: RE: Defra Letter dated 5 April

Dear Mr Latimer,

I telephoned earlier hoping to speak with you but your Son explained that you were in Brussels today. I am therefore emailing.

Rodney Anderson has discussed your email of 16th below which followed up my letter to you of 5th April and I have been asked to reply.

I am sorry that you feel that your questions have not been adequately answered. We need to come to an understanding regarding which of your questions you consider have not been responded to and and, if appropriate, what further information might be provided. Clearly, there has already been an extensive exchange of correspondence and it is important that we get to the bottom of what information you have and have not been supplied.

Rather than perpetuate a lengthy correspondence, we consider that the best way forward would be for you, as previously agreed, to meet with Marine and Fisheries Agency and CEFAS officials to address any remaining concerns that you have. We have made substantial efforts to try to provide you with the data you have requested but since there seems to be some disagreement over the extent and nature of information you have already received, this would seem to be a more constructive approach for all concerned. .

My letter suggested a choice of two dates for such a meeting but I was unaware that you were not able to make either. Once again I hope we can find an early and mutually convenient date when you (and I assume Prof Hooper) can come to London. I have checked the availability of colleagues this end - May regrettably already being heavily committed. The soonest I can find dates when we and our

CEFAS advisers are available is during week beginning 21 May - currently I can offer 21st, 22nd, 23rd or 24th - 22nd or 23rd being preferable.

Perhaps you can let me know as soon as possible if one of these dates will be convenient. I very much hope that we can resolve any outstanding and reasonable requests in the near future.

Geoff Bowles
Marine & Fisheries Agency
020 7270 8656
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