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Sonia Lorenzo Martín
HLS Contract Manager

11th August 2016

Mrs Ailsa Farrand (Friends of Latchmore)
The Old Cottage
Furze Hill
Nr Fordingbridge
SP6 2PX

Dear Ailsa,

Freedom of Information Act/Environmental Information Regulations: HLS Spend by Site 2010 to 2016 (New Forest Wetland Restoration Projects)

Thank you for your e-mail received on the 14th July requesting information about the costs expended to date on the Latchmore Restoration Project and the projected costs for the final project.

My initial assessment is that the information you are seeking is exempt under section 39(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because this information is "environmental information", as defined in regulation 2 of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Your request must therefore be considered under these regulations.

The regulations require us to disclose (unless an exemption in the regulations is applied) recorded information held by us which falls within the scope of the request at the time the request is made. There is no requirement for us to create information in order to answer questions, set information into context or verify whether or not information is correct or complete. The regulations simply require the disclosure of recorded information as held.

For convenience I have re-stated each element of your request before providing a response.

1. Please provide costs so far expended on the Latchmore Restoration Project

Based on the invoices approved since the beginning of the project until today, the current expenditure is £256,657.65. These costs incorporate the preparation of the EIA and Environmental Statement which have been submitted with the planning application and all the associated surveys.

Staff time (and costs) relating to the Latchmore Restoration Project are not recorded separately which means that although there have been other costs the information is

not held. This means that Regulation 12(4)(a) 'information not held' applies to some of the project costs.

2. Please provide the projected costs for the final project.

The estimated cost of the project is currently £1.5m.

Please note that this information was not held as a single figure at the time the request was revived. However, it was created as a result of your request and as a result of the public interest test (see below) it has been included in this response.

All exemptions to disclose under the Environmental Information Regulations are subject to the public interest test. However, the Information Commissioner accepts that where the information is not held it is not possible to carry out the public interest test, but should information be created and recoded after the request is received then disclosure of this should be considered as part of the public interest test. In this case the total project cost, calculated on the basis of the current plans, has been created as a result of our consideration of your request and this information has been included in this response.

We have tried to deal with your request as fully as possible. However, should you wish to complain about the way your request has been handled please contact:

Forestry Commission
Director England
620 Bristol Business Park
Coldharbour Lane
Bristol
BS16 1EJ

Tel: 0300 067 4000

Email: seceng@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Complaints regarding non-compliance with the requirements of the open information legislation should initially be made to the Forestry Commission itself. We aim to resolve any complaints with you directly. However, should the matter fail to be resolved, you may make an appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office.

Further information of the role of the Information Commissioner and guidance on FOI/EIR can be found on the Commissioner's web site: www.ico.gov.uk or by calling the helpline: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely,

P.P.



Sonia Lorenzo Martín
HLS Contract Manager