

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Biodiversity Programme
Zone 1/16
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN



Telephone 08459 33 55 77

Website www.defra.gov.uk

Duncan Murray
Curbridge Preservation Society

Our ref: RFI 4914

15 August 2012

Dear Mr Murray

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: COPY OF DEFRA LETTER REGARDING SPA POLICY.

Thank you for your request for a copy of the Defra letter circulated to members of the SPA/Ramsar Scientific Working Group (SPAR SWG) clarifying SPA policy, referenced in their 2001-2002 Annual Report, which we received on 23 July 2012. As you know, we have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs). I enclose a copy of the information you requested:

- Letter to the Secretary of the SPAR SWG outlining the site protection policy for SPAs (18 September 2002).

Note that the addressee (Secretary of the SPAR SWG) requested that their name be removed from the letter as they no longer have an SPA related role. The Defra official's name at the foot of the letter has also been removed for similar reasons. This is in line with regulation 13 of the EIRs, which relates to fair processing of third party personal data.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Tully'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'A' and a long, sweeping underline.

Andy Tully

Direct Line 0117 372 3543

Email Andy.Tully@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Annex A

Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

Most documents produced by Defra will be protected by Crown Copyright. Most Crown copyright information can be re-used under the [Open Government Licence](#). For information about the OGL and about re-using Crown Copyright information please see [The National Archives website](#).

Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).

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 Brendan Walsh, Head of Defra's Information Rights Team at Area1B, Ergon House, Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 2AL, (email: informationrights@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