

2005-06 Q4 Report

Background

This report is based on the actual information on the Teams Request Trackers, at the end of 2005-06. We only track complex requests, which are defined as:

1. requests which fall outside our normal course of business;
2. requests for information where we might refuse eg sensitive, confidential information or a repeat request;
3. requests for information related to the **policy making process**;
4. requests on which it may be necessary to consult with others either within English Nature or outside;
5. requests for large amounts of information or information which may be difficult to locate;
6. requests which seem unclear or too general to deal with, and where we will need to seek clarification from the applicant;
7. requests for information where a search is made, but none is found.

Requests

- 38 requests for information have been logged on to the English Nature request trackers.
- 71% were identified as requests under the Environmental Information Regulations.
- 29% were identified as requests under the Freedom of Information Act.
- 50% of requests were from businesses.
- 24% of requests were from private citizens.
- 18% of requests were from other public bodies.
- 8% split between NGOs and, academics.

Information Requested

- 11% of requests related to development/planning related.
- 16% of requests related to contracts, surveys and datasets.
- 49% of requests related to SSSIs, species or habitat related.
- 24% other types of requests.

English Nature Performance

- We have dealt with 37 requests within our 15 working day service standards.
- We have dealt with one request beyond our service standard but within the legal deadline.
- The timeliness of responding to requests breaks down to:
 - 0–5 days = 26 requests
 - 6–10 days = 6 requests
 - 11–15 days = 5 requests
 - 16–20 days = 1 request
- We have provided all information in 29 cases.
- We have partially provided information in six cases.
- We have refused one request in full using the EIR exceptions.
- We have been unable to complete one request as we didn't hold the information.
- We transferred one case to another public body.
- We have referred one case to Defra, for advice, but none to the Department of Constitutional Affairs (DCA), Clearing House.
- At the end of the Quarter, we had no ongoing cases.

- We have had two appeals against our original decision.

Another successful quarter, we are still approaching the requests, with a view to releasing the information. Our timeliness for responding continues to be very good.

Internal Advice

Requests for internal advice continue to be less than 100.

Request of the Quarter

We were asked for information about licences we have issued to any Government agency or private company working for the Government to undertake research on badgers, details can be found on our disclosure log at www.english-nature.org.uk/about/access/disclosure_log.htm

Appeals decisions this Quarter

We have had two appeals this quarter:-

1. Against our refusal to provide the identities of revellers on a site who had received letters. This appeal was not upheld and our original decision stood. The requestor was directed to the Information Commissioner's Office if they wish to appeal this decision.
2. Against our refusal to supply a copy of the minutes of a meeting between ourselves, our legal advisors and six other public bodies. This appeal was not upheld and our original decision stood. The requester was directed to the Information Commissioner's Office if they wish to appeal this decision, which they have now done.

Darren Green
Corporate Data Manager
April 2006