

## 2005-06 Q3 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

- 35 requests for information have been logged on to the English Nature request trackers, a 55% reduction on 2005-06 Q2.
- 85% were identified as requests under the Environmental Information Regulations.
- 15% were identified as requests under the Freedom of Information Act.
- 39% of requests were from businesses.
- 33% of requests were from private citizens.
- 28% split between NGOs, media, academics and other public bodies.

A reason for the reduction in requests is that we reclassified a certain types of request as normal business, and as such, we no longer recorded them.

### Information Requested

- 34% of requests related to development/planning related.
- 31% of requests related to SSSIs, species or habitat related.
- 8% of requests related to contracts, surveys and datasets.
- 3% of requests related to management agreements.
- 24% other types of requests.

### English Nature Performance

- We have dealt with 34 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 = 19 requests
  - 6–10 days = 6 requests
  - 11–15 days = 9 requests
  - 16–20 days = 1 request
- We have provided all information in 29 cases.
- We have partially provided information in one case.
- We have refused one request in full using the EIR exception “...the protection of the environment to which the information relates.”

- We have been unable to complete two requests. One due to no further information being provided by the requester for us to complete the request. The other because we didn't hold the information
- We have referred no cases to Defra or the Department of Constitutional Affairs (DCA), Clearing House.
- At the end of the Quarter, we had no ongoing cases.
- We have had one appeal against our original decision.

Another successful quarter, we are still approaching the requests, with a view to releasing the information. Our timeliness for responding has improved considerably since the last quarter including the Teams that performed poorly last quarter, which is good news.

### **Internal Advice**

Requests for internal advice fell this quarter to <100.

### **Request of the Quarter**

We were asked to release details of all staff names and if possible job titles.

### **Appeals decisions this Quarter**

We have had one appeal against us withholding the names of all employees in English Nature. This appeal was upheld and we released the requested information.

### **Publication Scheme**

After the review of our current Scheme against the proposed Department of Constitutional Affairs 'Gold Standard', a revised version is now available on our external website.

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