

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs  
Customer Contact Unit  
Area 3B  
Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR

By email to: [defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

20 February 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Subject: Request for access to information: air quality**

**Request for Information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004**

We are writing on behalf of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and ClientEarth to request information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (the 'Regulations'). To assist you with this request, we are outlining our request as specifically as possible.

**Background**

On 30 January 2018 the United Kingdom government was represented at a meeting of ministers in Brussels to discuss options for improving air quality.

Following the meeting, governments were invited to inform the European Commission (the 'Commission') about steps they would take to reduce air pollution.

The Commission has confirmed that the United Kingdom government shared information following this meeting and before the deadline of 9 February 2018.

**Information Requested**

We would be grateful if you could share copies of the information submitted to the Commission following this meeting. Specifically, this means proposals for air quality improvements sent to the Commission by the United Kingdom government between 30 January 2018 and 10 February 2018.

As the information requested concerns emissions to the environment, the state of the air and atmosphere and measures designed to protect these elements, we consider that the information we request is correctly characterised as 'environmental information' as defined in Regulation 2 of the Regulations.

There has been significant publicity around this issue by the Commission and the governments attending the meeting; therefore, we do not consider the exceptions to disclosure, under Regulation 12(5) of the Regulations, to apply.

In the circumstance that Regulation 12(5) does apply, we remind that under Regulation 12(2) public authorities shall apply a presumption in favour of disclosure. In particular, air pollution and the steps proposed by the UK government to reduce it are a major concern for people in the UK, we consider, therefore, that there is a clear overriding public interest in disclosure.

If this request is denied in whole or in part, please justify all deletions or refusals by reference to specific exceptions listed in Regulations 12 and 13 of the Regulations. In any case, please confirm or deny whether you hold the information requested and provide an index of it.

We look forward to your response as soon as possible and in any event no later than the 20 working-day time limit, but would be grateful if in the meantime you could confirm by reply that you have received this request. Should you have any further question, please do not hesitate to contact us (contacts below).

In order to minimise delays and cost, please provide the information electronically. The requested information should be sent to both these email addresses: [margherita.tolotto@eeb.org](mailto:margherita.tolotto@eeb.org) and [utaddei@clientearth.org](mailto:utaddei@clientearth.org).

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this request.

Yours faithfully,



Margherita Tolotto  
Air and Noise Policy Officer  
European Environmental Bureau  
Email: [margherita.tolotto@eeb.org](mailto:margherita.tolotto@eeb.org)  
Tel: +32 2 274 10 89



Ugo Taddei  
Lawyer  
ClientEarth  
Email: [utaddei@clientearth.org](mailto:utaddei@clientearth.org)  
Tel: +32 2 808 43 23