

were actively distributed, if anyone e.g. by email, post or hand to newsdesks, other Government departments, the Mayor of London, the Greater London Authority, the London Ambulance Service and other health services and/or LOCOG;

I can confirm that the information bulletin dated 25 July 2012 was actively distributed to contacts at the HPA, DfT, DH and GLA. The Information Bulletin was tweeted from @defraukair at 14:30 on 25 July. There was no information bulletin published on 26 July.

iii. how many webpage views have there been of the Defra and/or UK-AIR website for each of the items mentioned in (ii) above;

I can confirm that, on 25 and 26 July, there were 273 page views of the Information Bulletin relating to the recent air pollution episode: 140 on 25 July and 133 on 26 July.

The number of webpage views for the pollution episode warning on UK-AIR were as follows:

Views of the Alert webpage

- Wednesday 25 July: 82
- Thursday 26 July: 249
- Friday 27 July: 120
- Comparison date – Monday 16 July: 3

Hits on the homepage where alert is viewed:

- Wednesday 25 July: 365
- Thursday 26 July: 473
- Friday 27 July: 310
- Comparison date – Monday 16 July: 303

iv. all information held by Defra that relates to levels of ozone that might exceed the Information threshold at locations other than on or near the Automatic Urban and Rural Network (AURN) e.g. in Haringey, Newham, Sevenoaks and/or Tower Hamlets;

Defra does not hold any information relevant to this question.

v. information that might help CAL understand why Defra and the Met Office did not publicly forecast this smog episode and indeed lowered their predictions for the Daily Air Quality Index at the start of this week when CAL had expressed concern that air pollution might worsen during the week;

The occurrence of High ozone concentrations is not just driven by temperatures and Defra's contracted forecasting team make use of many information and data sources to prepare the daily 24 hour forecast. These inputs are described in the methodology section on UK-AIR¹. Importantly for ozone, analysis of precursor pollutants in the atmosphere, together with consideration of information on long range transport of pre-formed ozone from central Europe, is needed to ensure the forecast is accurate. In addition, the weather forecast always has uncertainties, which transfer through to the air quality forecast and must be considered and evaluated as part of the forecasting

¹ <http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/forecasting/how-forecasts-are-produced>

process.

Up to and including the forecast issued on 24 July at 12:48, there was no evidence to suggest that ozone was likely to exceed the Moderate level on the Daily Air Quality Index. During the early part of that week, the weather forecast predicted that the air reaching the UK, originated from slightly more north, rather than central Europe, and was not expected to contain sufficient pre-cursors or pre-formed ozone to support any early-warning forecast of High ozone concentrations. However, by the middle of that week the forecast was revised to a more steady central European air flow, thus predicting higher ozone concentrations, which resulted in the High pollution forecast that was issued. In our view this forecast was accurate and timely taking into account the probability of High ozone occurring.

Defra does not hold any relevant information regarding Met Office forecasts for this episode.

vi. any other information that would assist CAL in understanding whether you have complied with your duties including in relation to each item listed in Annex XVI, paragraph 4 of Directive 2008/50/EC on Public information

Defra meets the duties referred to in (vi) above as follows:

- The alerts page <http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/latest/alerts> provides information on:
 - the geographical location/area of observed exceedence
 - the type of exceedence
 - the start time and duration of the exceedence
 - the highest 1-hour concentration
- 8 hour mean data are available through the normal bulletins, current data pages and interactive map.
- Air quality forecasts are provided through the website, email bulletins and twitter feed and include descriptions of the expected changes in pollution together with the reasons for those changes.
- Information on the type of population concerned, possible health effects/symptoms and recommended precautions are all available online at UK-AIR and via the freephone site and are communicated through the Daily Air Quality Index pages. <http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/air-pollution/daqi?view=effects>
- Further information on the effects of air pollution is available at the following locations:
<http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/air-pollution/effects> and
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/air/air-quality/impacts/>

We have decided that the names of officials who are not in the senior civil service and persons outside Defra should be withheld under regulations 12(3) and 13(1) (third party personal data) of the EIRs, as the information constitutes personal data relating to third parties. Regulations 12(3) and 13(1) of the EIRs provide that personal data relating to third parties is exempt information if disclosure would breach the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA). These names have therefore been redacted from the attached documents.

We consider that disclosure of this information is likely to breach the first data protection principle in Schedule 1 to the DPA, which relates to the fair and lawful processing of personal data, in two

ways. First, disclosure would not constitute 'fair' processing of the personal data and, second, disclosure would not satisfy any of the conditions for data processing set out in Schedule 2 to the DPA. Therefore, we have concluded that this information is exempt from disclosure under regulation 12(3) and 13(1) of the EIRs.

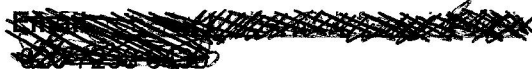
In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIRs, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

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 small, rectangular area of the document has been redacted with black ink, obscuring the name of the sender.A large, horizontal area of the document has been redacted with black ink, obscuring the name and possibly the title of the sender.

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.

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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 Mike Kaye, 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