



Executive Director



Parma, 30 October 2023

Ref. BU/DD/ro out-29934701

Ms Emily O'Reilly

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Subject: Follow-up to your letter of 21 April 2023

Dear Ms O'Reilly,

I refer to your letter of 21 April 2023, by means of which you noted that it is encouraging that EFSA has now developed a guidance document for those interested in requesting public access to documents held by EFSA, and that EFSA organised a webinar to present further information on that guidance document.

By means of this letter, I would like to provide you with a further update regarding the matters outlined above. In particular, I would like to highlight that the guidance document and the related webinar have now been made publicly available by EFSA at the following links:

Guidance document - <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-08/pad-guidance-for-applicants.pdf>

Related webinar - <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/webinar-efsa-guidance-public-access-documents-applicants#documents>

Additionally, I would like to confirm that EFSA has updated the Management Board Decision concerned to remove any reference to the possibility for EFSA to further extend timelines for replying to public access to documents requests received by means of a 'Fair Solution' within the meaning of Article 6(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001. The updated Management Board Decision can be found here: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/wp200327-a2.pdf>.

Further kindly note that, with a view to implementing in full your suggestion, Article 4(8) of the Management Board Decision has been amended to foresee the possibility to share at an early stage in the processing a list of documents falling within the scope of a particular public access to documents application to allow swift and timely processing.

Besides the actions described above, as regards the IT tool presented to your inquiry team on 22 March 2023, I would like to confirm that EFSA is currently piloting the use of it in relation to voluminous public access to documents requests received. Specifically, EFSA is currently engineering the use of the IT tool in its handling of access to documents' applications, with a view to optimising the comprehensive integration and successful operational implementation of the IT tool with respect to the processing of all voluminous public access to documents requests received by EFSA (optimization that will be in place following the completion of the piloting phase).

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The application phase has so far produced concrete positive results concerning the use of the technical features offered by the IT tool to generate statistical data in terms of expected calculations regarding the number of documents that can be processed in full by EFSA in accordance with the relevant timeline of a public access to documents request. In this connection, should you be interested in receiving further information, EFSA would be glad to further update your office after the piloting phase, which is currently scheduled to last until 29 February 2024.

I hope this clarifies the continued achievements made by EFSA in this crucial process with an important transparency dimension and I remain available for any further clarifications you may wish to receive.

Yours sincerely,

 Digitally signed
by Bernhard Url
Date: 2023.10.30
11:18:46 +01'00'

Bernhard Url
Executive Director

CC: D. Detken (EFSA)

