



2.5 Charging Policy

The Environmental Records Information Centre North East (ERIC North East) operates on a not-for-profit basis, providing biodiversity information products and services to a range of users. There is a cost to running such a service and, for ERIC North East to remain financially sustainable, these costs must be met by its users.

ERIC North East's charges are set to recover the costs of time spent accessing, collating, processing and managing data, as well as supplying data to end users. These costs include staff time and the overheads associated with running ERIC North East. No charge is made for the actual data or information which is passed on to users, as ERIC North East is neither the owner of the data, nor did it bear the cost of data collection.

The charges (for 2013/14, last updated March 2013) are set out in the tables below:

Enquiry service:

Band	Rate (exc. VAT)	Who
A	£80.00 per hour	Commercial and non-commercial users
B	Free	Charitable users with data sharing agreement ^{*1} ^{*2}
C	Free	Academics, recording groups and the public ^{*2}

^{*1} Charitable users without a data sharing agreement will be charged a non-commercial user rate (A)

^{*2} When a significant amount of staff time is required (over 3 hours), a small fee may be charged to cover costs.

Service level agreements:

Band	Rate (exc. VAT)	Who
A	Options start at £1,000 per annum	Commercial users ^{*4}
B	£2,000 per annum	Local authorities ^{*5}
C	Individually calculated depending on requirements	Non-commercial organisations and charities

^{*4} Based on 10 standard desk top data searches (15 hours of ERIC staff time)

^{*5} Bespoke enquiry service and 6-monthly GIS data updates.

Charge out day rate: £250 + VAT per day