

Information Released under Environmental Information Regulations

Subject: Storm names

Date Released: 16/03/2016

Summary of request:

Please provide me with:

1. Any list of rejected storm names for those picked by the Met Office to represent storm names.
2. Information surrounding the decision making process of the names of the storms which were picked
3. Minutes of the meeting where the names of storms were picked.

I look forward to your response within the statutory time limits set out by the Act.

Information released:

On 8 September 2015 the Met Office and Met Éireann announced a pilot project to name wind storms that are expected to affect the UK and Ireland. Details of the 'Name our Storms' pilot project are provided on our website page: <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/news/in-depth/name-our-storms>

The Met Office used social media to gather names for inclusion in the list, through a variety of ways:

- Tweeting
- Met Office Facebook pages
- By sending an email to pressoffice@metoffice.gov.uk.

The names were collated and a list compiled to include those proposed by Met Éireann.

The Met Office does not hold a list of rejected names. However, to provide advice and assistance, I can confirm some names were excluded in accordance with policy. Some names were excluded through policy of retiring names elsewhere in the world:

The following link shows names which have been retired for the Atlantic and North Pacific: <http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/hrd/tcfaq/B3.html>

For the Australian region the following names have been retired: Hamish, Laurence, Magda, Carlos, Heidi, Isobel, Jasmine, Lam, Lua, Marcia, Rubina,

For Fiji: Ami, Beni, Cilla, Cliff, Daman, Eseta, Funa, Gene, Heta, Ivy, Meena, Nancy, Olaf, Percy.

The South-West Indian region does not recycle names and so they are not retired officially and the North Indian Ocean region has not gone through one cycle of its list of names yet.

Other 'names' were discounted because they were not proper names, these include:

Armedgeddon, Apocalypse, Baldrick, Big Boss, Bilbo, BlackHeart, Bluetooth, branch wobbler, Cyclops, DarkBloom, Excalibur, Freebooter, Forkbeard, Gale, Gnasher, Goliath, Goldeneye, Hades, Hammer, Holy Flying Circus, ForkBeard, Howitzer, Icy, In A Teacup (or Ena Tee Cup), Jelbuoy, King Henry V, Hot Brew, Kraken, leaf shaker, leaf stripper, Lionheart, Maelstrom, Magneto, Megatron, Melbourne, Minatour, Mr Brown, NastyBoy, Oblivion, Noddy, Poacher, Power, Poplar, Polaris, root ripper, Queen Victoria, Skylab, Smaug, Splasher, Stair rod, Stomp, Stormageddon, Sssweetcaroline, Swoosh, Tempest, Tetley, Thrasher, Thumper, Tiger, Torch, trunk trembler, Twizzle, Typhoon, Valkyrie, Vader, Voldemort, Wheatherwax, Wookie, Zebedee,

The names of retailers such as B&Q, Asda etc. were also excluded.

The decision to pick the names was not made at a meeting, therefore no meeting minutes are held.

The Met Office does however hold email correspondence between staff at Met Office and Met Éireann discussing which names were picked.

Please note the details of individuals are withheld in accordance with the exception under Regulation 13 of EIR, as release of personal data to a member of the public would contravene the data protection principles. Among other things, disclosure of personal data would contravene the first principle set out in Schedule 1 to the Data Protection Act 1998 of fair and lawful processing.