

Full details of staff taken on by the Department on short-term/temporary contracts since the Coalition Government was established?

Since 11 May 2010, DCLG has hired a total of nine civil servants on short term contracts. A short term contract is defined here as any member of staff hired on either a casual or fixed-term basis.

The breakdown of these nine staff by pay band is as follows:

Administrative to Executive Officer – 6
Higher Executive Officer to Grade 6 – 3

All nine of these posts were advertised, though not all were advertised directly by DCLG because of the nature of the posts. A number of the posts were advertised by the Government Legal Service, the Government Economic Service and the Government Statistical Service. In addition, Sandwich Student placements are advertised across university sites, and the remaining posts were advertised by DCLG externally. Appointments to all nine of these posts were made following formal interviews.

Please be aware that no staff have been employed on temporary or short-term contracts to support the Secretary of State. Further, I have not included details of our two Special Advisers as the appointments for their term of office are not considered to be either temporary or short term.

I would like the response to include the name and job title of each member of staff, whether they previously worked for either the Conservative or Liberal Democrat parties and, if so, in what capacity.

Since the general election one member of the nine staff I referred to above has previously worked as an intern for a Liberal Democrat MP. The internship was prior to 2006 and the role involved writing press releases and taking minutes of meetings etc.

I am withholding the names of individuals appointed on short term contracts since May 11 2010 as this information is exempt from disclosure under the absolute exemption at section 40(2) of the FOI Act.

Section 40(2) applies in this case because the information is the personal data of the individuals concerned within the definition in the Data Protection 1998 and disclosure would, in our view, breach one or more of the data protection principles in that Act.