

I am writing in response to your email of 17 August 2010 requesting information about the number of councils in the UK which have hired agency staff in 2008/09 and the total agency staff costs to UK councils. Your request was received by Communities and Local Government on 17 August 2010.

Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that Communities and Local Government does hold some of the information that you have requested and that I am able to provide you with that information. Communities and Local Government only collects information for agency staff costs for the whole of England and the information the Department holds is not be broken down to its constituent local authorities / councils. Therefore I am unable to provide you with information for the number of councils in England whom have hired agency staff in the financial year 2008/09 as it is not held by this Department.

The total estimated cost, for hiring agency staff, based on a local authority survey was £1,340 million. This figure relates to the 2008/09 financial year for England.

This information is also available on Page 186 of the Local Government Financial Statistics England publication, a web link to which I have provided below:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/financialstatistics2010