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Our ref: **12/1210**

22 August 2012

Dear

RE: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 16 August 2012 where you requested the information regarding detailing the number of full time equivalent staff that were provided staff time to work on trade union duties and/ or activities for each separate trade union. We have now completed searching for the information you requested.

The Recognition Agreement between Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) and the recognised trades unions (the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), the FDA and Prospect) follows the ACAS Code of Practice "Time off for Trades Union Duties and Activities" and sets out the details of facility time agreed between parties.

Under the terms of the Recognition Agreement the Unions agreed to operate under a single Departmental Trade Union Side (DTUS). That means that the full time equivalent trade union staff may work in respect of any of the three trade unions that the Department recognises. DTUS does not record how those staff allocate their time between the three unions and as a result DECC does not hold the information you have requested for each separate trade union.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: **Information Rights Unit** (foi@decc.gov.uk)

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,