

Department of Energy & Climate Change

3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2AW

www.decc.gov.uk

Your ref:

Our ref: 12/0490

13th April 2012

Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your e-mail enquiry of 22nd March 2012 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) on government car hire expenditure by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).

You specifically asked for information on:

- the last three years annual Departmental expenditure to-date on car hire;
- number of instances of car hire use and the length of time they were hired for;
- purpose of hire for each car and for whom the vehicle was hired;
- daily cost of hire for each model of car and;
- details of suppliers providing vehicles for hire use by DECC

Details of the last three years' annual expenditure and suppliers used is given in the table at the end of this letter. We do not hold information detailing the model of car, length of time hired for nor the daily cost of hire. Regarding the number of instances of car hire use I am afraid that it is not possible to provide you with information without exceeding the cost limit of £600 provided under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act. This represents the estimated cost of spending 3.5 working days spent (i) determining whether the Department holds the information, and (ii) locating, retrieving and extracting the information. The Act provides that we are not obliged to comply with requests where the estimated cost of complying would exceed this limit. To answer your questions fully would involve contacting each division within the Department to provide details of all car-hire bookings.

For car hire **within the UK**, the DECC has access to the Business Innovation and Skills Department's contract (let as part of a government-wide Framework Agreement) currently with "Enterprise Rent-A Car" who are vehicle providers of short-term hire cars. **Overseas** car hire is currently arranged by the Hogg Robinson (Travel) Group (HRG).

The Department's policy for car hire is that a self-drive car can be hired when undertaking an official business journey where the most suitable method of travel is by car rather than public transport and the most economical options is for a vehicle to be hired.

Appeal Procedure

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 the department. 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

Expenditure details

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Hire costs	£7k	£7k	£5k
Suppliers	ARVAL (UK) LTD AVIS RENT A CAR LTD	ARVAL (UK) LTD	ARVAL (UK) LTD AVIS RENT A CAR LTD