

Thank you for your letter of 6 December 2012 where you requested the following information:

“how many jobs, if any, exist in my constituency as a direct result of your department’s work and that of executive agencies responsible to your department.”

We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, we established that the information you requested is not held by this Department.

Whilst we don’t hold the exact information you requested, the following information on jobs in the energy sector in Scotland may be of interest.

Various industry bodies have looked to estimate the number of jobs based in Scotland within their sectors, which may be of interest to you. For example, Oil and Gas UK, a trade association for the oil and gas industry, estimate that approximately 200,000 people are employed in the industry in Scotland.¹ This includes 110,000 who were employed directly by oil and gas companies or in the wider supply chain, with another 45,000 in the export of goods and services. Additionally, 41,000 jobs were supported by economic activity induced by employees’ spending throughout Scotland. It also estimates that around 570 jobs are supported in Paisley and Renfrewshire North.²

Scottish Renewables, a trade association for the Scottish renewables industry, estimate that over 11,000 jobs were supported by the Scottish renewables industry in 2011-12.³

I am also able to provide you with information on the number of people based in Scotland employed by DECC or one of its associated agencies:

- DECC has an office in Aberdeen which employs 100 staff;
- Ofgem has an office in Glasgow employing 60 staff;
- the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority employs four staff based in Scotland;
- the Coal Authority currently employs three staff permanently based in Scotland, and in addition regularly employs contracted staff to carry out its functions in Scotland;
- we do not hold data concerning the number of Civil Nuclear Police Authority employees based in Scotland.

With regard to the wider Scottish independence debate, the UK Government is firmly committed to Scotland’s ongoing place in the United Kingdom and is confident that people in Scotland will continue to support the United Kingdom in any referendum.

The Government has a role in informing the public in the build up to the referendum on Scottish independence. As you may already be aware, on 20 June 2012 the

¹ <http://www.oilandgasuk.co.uk/employment.cfm>

² <http://www.oilandgasuk.co.uk/cmsfiles/custom/map/atlas.html>

³ <http://www.scottishrenewables.com/scottish-renewable-energy-statistics-glance/#chart7>

Secretary of State for Scotland announced that the UK Government will undertake a comprehensive programme of work to inform and support the debate on Scotland's future within the UK. This programme will produce detailed evidence and analysis to assess Scotland's place in the UK, and how it contributes to, and benefits from being part of the United Kingdom.

This work will look at legal and constitutional issues, economic performance, currency and monetary policy, tax and spending, financial services and banking, debt and borrowing, EU and international, defence and security, welfare, cultural heritage, borders and immigration, business and energy policy.

The UK Government will publish a series of papers covering this analysis in 2013. Full details of this announcement are available here: <http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/17403.html>

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 me at the address above.

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