

Department of Energy & Climate Change

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Our ref: 14/28848

15 January 2015

Dear,

RE: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 16 December 2014 where you requested the following information:

1. What were the total resource costs to the Department of Energy & Climate Change of dealing with FOI requests for the year 2014, and separately, 2013?
2. How many requests were submitted in each of these years (up until the most recent point where data is available)?

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') you have the right to know whether we hold the information you require and be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

1. We can confirm that the Department of Energy & Climate Change ('DECC') does not hold information for the total resource costs of dealing with FOI requests in 2013 and 2014 as we do not record the staff time spent on answering each individual request.
2. We can confirm that we hold information about the number of FOI requests received by DECC in 2013 and 2014. However, this information (up to September 2014) is available via the FOI statistics published by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) on the gov.uk website via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-foi-statistics>

As this information is already in the public domain it is therefore exempt under Section 21 of the FOI Act as we are not required to provide information which is already reasonably accessible to you.

Information about the number of requests received by DECC from October to December 2014 is withheld under FOI s22 as this is intended for future publication on the same website. Section 22 is a qualified exemption and we have therefore considered the public interest test. There is a public interest in knowing the numbers of FOI requests received as this leads to greater

transparency in government. However, given the necessary preparation and administration involved in publishing the information, we consider that the best use of public resources would be directed to pulling this information together, ensuring the information is accurate and published in a consistent and comprehensive format, rather than in a piecemeal fashion. Having considered the public interest, the Department's decision is to withhold the requested information.

Appeals 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 me at the address above.

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,

DECC Knowledge & Information Management team