

Freedom of Information request 2597/2010

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Information request

Various questions on DWP expenditure including hospitality, travel and subsistence for the periods:

- June 1 – August 31 2010
- June 1 – August 31 2009

DWP response

1. How much did the department spend on providing biscuits, snacks, tea, coffee and soft drinks for departmental meetings during the period June 1 to August 31 2010?
2. How much did the department spend on providing biscuits, snacks, tea, coffee and soft drinks for departmental meetings during the period June 1 to August 31 2009?

The information you have asked for is not recorded under these headings. However, expenditure on teas and coffees for meetings on Departmental premises is set out in the table below.

Period	Teas and coffees
01/06/2009 to 31/08/2009	£60,268
01/06/2010 to 31/08/2010	£56,882

3. How much did the department spend on (detailed separately if possible) taxi transport and the government car service for its ministers and staff during the period June 1 to August 31 2010?
4. How much did the department spend on (detailed separately if possible) taxi transport and the government car service for its ministers and staff during the period June 1 to August 31 2009?

DWP expenditure on taxis and on the Government Car and Despatch Agency is set out in the table below.

Period	Taxis	Government car service
01/06/2009 to 31/08/2009	£535,498	£212,390
01/06/2010 to 31/08/2010	£401,454	£119,680

- 5. How much did the department spend on (detailed separately if possible) first class and second class train travel for its ministers and staff during the period June 1 to August 31 2010?**
- 6. How much did the department spend on (detailed separately if possible) first class and second class train travel for its ministers and staff during the period June 1 to August 31 2009?**

DWP expenditure on first class and standard class train travel is set out in the table below.

Period	Rail – first class	Rail – standard class
01/06/2009 - 31/08/2009	£4,201,386	£2,467,480
01/06/2010 - 31/08/2010	£1,316,989	£1,818,699

- 7. How much did the department spend on flowers for its offices during the period June 1 to August 31 2010?**
- 8. How much did the department spend on flowers for its offices during the period June 1 to August 31 2009?**

The Department does not purchase flowers for its offices.

- 9. How much did the department spend on providing champagne or sparkling wine for functions and events during the period June 1 to August 31 2010?**
- 10. How much did the department spend on providing champagne or sparkling wine for functions and events during the period June 1 to August 31 2009?**

The Department does not keep a separate record of expenditure on alcohol. However, alcohol is provided only exceptionally at public expense and then only with the specific written authority of a designated Senior Civil Servant.

- 11. How much did the department spend on providing other alcohol, soft drinks, and food/snacks for functions and events during the period June 1 to August 31 2010?**

12. How much did the department spend on providing other alcohol, soft drinks, and food/snacks for functions and events during the period June 1 to August 31 2009?

As stated in the answer to questions 9 and 10, the Department does not separately record expenditure on alcohol and as stated in the answer to questions 1 and 2, expenditure on food and refreshments is not recorded under those headings.

Details of expenditure on food and beverages for Departmental events held in external venues are set out in the table below.

Period	Food and beverages at external venues
01/06/2009 - 31/08/2009	£320,954
01/06/2010 - 31/08/2010	£82,364

13. How much did the department spend on subsistence allowances for its ministers and staff during the period June 1 to August 31 2010?

14. How much did the department spend on subsistence allowances for its ministers and staff during the period June 1 to August 31 2009?

The figures are set out in the table below.

The costs include meals and incidental costs, as well as some accommodation costs, such as lodgings for staff working away from their normal office.

Period	Subsistence allowances
01/06/2009 - 31/08/2009	£1,157,110
01/06/2010 - 31/08/2010	£905,170

15. How much did the department spend on accommodation for its ministers and staff during the period June 1 to August 31 2010?

16. How much did the department spend on accommodation for its ministers and staff during the period June 1 to August 31 2009?

DWP expenditure on hotel accommodation is set out in the table below.

Period	Hotel accommodation
01/06/2009 to 31/08/2009	£3,155,685
01/06/2010 to 31/08/2010	£2,264,705