



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

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Department of Energy & Climate Change

3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2AW

www.decc.gov.uk

Our ref: FOI 2014/13532

16 July 2014

Dear **Redacted**

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 23 June in which you requested the following:

1. *“ What information the department holds on the use of the department’s ministerial car by ministers over the past 12 months.*
2. *I would be interested in as much detail as you have about pick up place and destination, journey time, reason for use of car etc.*

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

The Department has only one ministerial car which is used by all the Department’s Ministers for journeys when conducting official business. We cannot provide the information you have requested as your request is too wide and the effort to administer your request would exceed the limit prescribed in Regulations made pursuant to Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This limit is £600 and which represents the estimated cost of spending



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3.5 working days in determining whether the Department holds such information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Where the estimated cost is above this limit, we are not obliged to comply with a request.

Invoices are provided to the Department for journeys made in the Minister's car. In order to provide the information you have requested it would be necessary to identify every journey made by any of our Ministers over a 12 month period or more, locate each invoice and extract relevant details. We estimate that it will take us in excess of 3.5 working days to determine appropriate material and locate, retrieve and extract the information in reference to your request. Therefore, your request will not be processed further.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain. You could, for example focus on information relating to a particular Minister, specific journey and shorter time period.

You may wish to be aware that the car is not used on a regular basis for journeys from ministers' homes to work and vice versa. The car may be required to pick ministers up from their home to attend to departmental business and papers. The Ministerial Code states that ministers are permitted the use of a government car for official business and for working on official papers during journeys between home and work. See page 23, paragraph 10.12 of the Code. Click link at

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/ministerial-code-may-2010.pdf>

The Department does not hold information relating to the frequency of such journeys.

Further information about use of ministerial cars is available in the Ministerial Code on use of official cars on page 23, paragraph 10.12. Click link at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/ministerial-code-may-2010.pdf>

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 the Information Rights Unit (foi@decc.gsi.gov.uk).

Information Rights Unit (DECC Shared Service)
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
1 Victoria Street
London



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SW1H 0ET

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,

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