



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Your ref:
Our ref: RFI 6362
Date: 24 March 2014

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Travel and Subsistence for Special Advisors

Thank you for your request for information about Travel and Subsistence for Special Advisors, which we received on 3 March 2014. As you know we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked:

Please can you provide me with a breakdown of costs, as specifically as allowed of travel, entertainment, hospitality and any hotel or accommodation costs paid in reimbursement to Special Advisors. Can I have this information for the years: 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14.

Our response:

The table below sets out information on reimbursed spend taken from our financial systems in relation to Special Advisors' travel. The majority of Departmental travel (and accommodation) is booked through a travel services contract, rather than the costs being borne by staff and reimbursed in arrears. There are no transactions in respect of accommodation, entertainment or hospitality.

Information relating to 2013-14 will be available in July 2014, once the Department's accounts for the year have been audited and published.

Special Advisor	2011-12 (£)	2012-13 (£)
Simon Cawte	248.49	111.50
Amy Fisher	225.40	Nil



Further information about Special Advisors and their costs is available at the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/special-adviser-data-releases-numbers-and-costs-october-2013>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/special-advisers-transparency-publications>

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA, and in keeping with the government's Transparency Agenda, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you will now be published on www.gov.uk together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. Please note that this will not include your personal data.

I attach Annex A, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you.

I also attach Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me.

Yours

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Annex A

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Annex B

Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 18 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Mike Kaye, Head of Information Standards, Area 4D, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: requestforinfo@defra.gsi.gov.uk) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our website.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF