

Your ref:
Our ref: FOI 12/0187

March 2012

RE: FOI 12/0187

Thank you for your email of 7 February where you requested information about data on DECC's expenditure under a number of headings.

From our preliminary assessment we estimate that answering your entire request would exceed the cost limit of £600 provided under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act. This represents the estimated cost of spending 3.5 working days: (i) determining whether the department holds the information, and (ii) locating, retrieving and extracting the information. The Act provides that we are not obliged to comply with requests where the estimated cost of complying would exceed this limit.

The elements of your request that we estimate would exceed the cost limit are noted below:

1 a) Travel information for 2010/11 is attached at Annex 1. To provide information for 2011/12 would exceed the cost limit.

We do not record ferry and bus travel centrally so do not have a record of any foreign ferry or bus travel. A review of all individual expense claim forms would need to be undertaken to identify ferry and bus travel.

1 b) A breakdown of all taxi journeys (including cost and distance) under 5 miles and over 30 miles paid for by the Department and its arm's lengths bodies since May 2010. DECC and its Arms Length Bodies do not hold information on mileage of taxi journeys. To provide information would involve reviewing individual T&S claims and related records to obtain start and end points for individual taxi journeys and calculating approximate distances.

1d) The Coal Authority would need to review of all individual expense claim forms to provide details of individual journeys.

2 a) To provide information would involve reviewing individual T&S claims and related records to obtain costs of meals claimed and locations.

I have included below the information that can be provided within the cost limit.

1) Civil Servant Travel

a) A breakdown of all foreign travel by civil servants in the Department since May 2010.

Please see Annex 1 for a listing of all rail and air travel by DECC staff and Ministers booked through central contractors in 2010/11, including foreign travel.

We do not record ferry and bus travel centrally. A review of all individual expense claim forms would need to be undertaken to identify ferry and bus travel.

- b) A breakdown of all taxi journeys (including cost and distance) under 5 miles and over 30 miles paid for by the Department and its arm's length bodies since May 2010. DECC and its Arms Length Bodies do not hold information on mileage of taxi journeys. To provide information would involve reviewing individual T&S claims and related records to obtain start and end points for individual taxi journeys and calculating approximate distances. DECC's total expenditure on taxi journeys in 2010/11 was £69K. CA's spend on taxis between May 2010 and January 2012 was £5K. NDA's spend on taxis between May 2010 and January 2012 was 123K. CCC's spend on taxis between May 2010 and November 2011 was £239.
- c) The amount spent on first class train travel paid for by the Department and its arms length bodies in each month since May 2010.

The Civil Nuclear Police Authority (CNPA) has provided information for 2010/11 only. It will be generating information for 2011/12 after March 2012. In 2010/11 45 of 315 rail journeys were by first class at a total cost of £5k.

The Coal Authority's rail travel policy is no first class travel and this is enforced.

Please see Annex 2 for the Department's, CCC's and NDA's first class rail travel.

- d) A breakdown of all air travel paid for by the Department and its arms length bodies since May 2010; the destination; whether economy/business/first class was used; and the cost of each trip.

The Civil Nuclear Police Authority (CNPA) has provided information for 2010/11 only. It will be generating information for 2011/12 after March 2012. In 2010/11 all air travel was by economy. 205 flights were taken and cost £19.6K.

The Coal Authority spent £16.2K on air travel during the period 1 May 2010 to 31 January 2012. To provide details of individual journeys a review of all individual expense claim forms would need to be undertaken.

Please see Annex 3 for the CCC's and NDA's air travel.

Please see Annex 1 for a listing which includes all air travel by DECC staff and Ministers booked through central contractors in 2010/11.

2) Hospitality

- a) A list of restaurants where ministers and civil servants have expensed the Department and its arms length bodies since May 2010, where the cost was greater than £100.

To provide information would involve reviewing individual T&S claims and related records to obtain costs of meals claimed and locations.

A link to published information on gifts and hospitality received by DECC Ministers, Special Advisors, the DECC management Board; and overseas travel by DECC Ministers is below.

<http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/registers.aspx>

3) Arms length Bodies

- a) The amount spent on redundancy, administration costs for the abolition of the Department's arm's length bodies and a breakdown of these costs.

DECC has not abolished any NDPBs or incurred such costs.

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: Information Rights Unit (foi@decc.gov.uk).

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

The amount spent on first class train travel paid for by the Department and its arms length bodies in each month since May 2010

The Committee on Climate Change

January 11 £120 (national - one person single London to Perth)
September 11 £452 (international - one person return London to Paris Nord)

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

NDA	
First Class Rail	
May-10	£27,571
Jun-10	£27,812
Jul-10	£20,615
Aug-10	£13,929
Sep-10	£24,988
Oct-10	£23,540
Nov-10	£30,815
Dec-10	£10,492
Jan-11	£24,461
Feb-11	£16,480
Mar-11	£31,155
Apr-11	£19,806
May-11	£26,493
Jun-11	£35,460
Jul-11	£22,125
Aug-11	£10,037
Sep-11	£35,646
Oct-11	£24,916
Nov-11	£33,315
Dec-11	£13,476

Core DECC

DECC First class rail		£
2010	MAY	1,003
	JUNE	1,619
	JULY	1,387
	AUGUST	330
	SEPTEMBER	310
	OCTOBER	968
	NOVEMBER	1,719
	DECEMBER	0
	JANUARY	608
	FEBRUARY	405
	MARCH	1,592
2011	APRIL	1,644
	MAY	896
	JUNE	1,963
	JULY	150
	AUGUST	260
	SEPTEMBER	640
	OCTOBER	346
	NOVEMBER	602
	DECEMBER	137
	JANUARY	978