

FOI release

Subject

Government Procurement Card (GPC) expenditure

Date of disclosure

19 February 2013

Request

For information about expenditure for each civil servant in the Department on the GPC or any other corporate credit card in 2011-12 and 2012-13 to know how many civil servants have faced disciplinary action over card misuse and what pay band those civil servants were in.

Response

The Department for Communities and Local Government has released information about relevant expenditure during the period asked about. There were no instances of fraud and disciplinary action for card mis-use.

DCLG - Government Procurement Card Expenditure

Amount of GPC Transaction	Posting Date	Merchant Name (this is the name of the supplier making the financial transaction)	Merchant Category (a description of the merchant by the Card Company and not necessarily the product/service purchased)
124.84	01.11.2012	THE DANWOOD GROUP LTD LINCOLN	STATIONERY & OFFICE SUPPLIES STORES
67.74	05.11.2012	AMAZON MKTPLCE EU-UK AMAZON.CO.UK	BOOK STORES
98.17	05.11.2012	AMAZON EU AMAZON.CO.UK	DIRECT SALES COMPANIES
141.58	05.11.2012	EBUYER (UK) LTD SHEFFIELD	HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCE STORES
13.50	07.11.2012	BE UN LIMITED LONDON W2	PHONE SERVICES & EQUIPMENT
131.40	07.11.2012	BT PAY BY PHONE GATESHEAD NEW	PHONE SERVICES & EQUIPMENT
48.00	08.11.2012	AMAZON MKTPLCE EU-UK AMAZON.CO.UK	BOOK STORES
27.60	08.11.2012	INFORMA UK ECOM GB LONDON	PUBLISHING & PRINTING SERVICES
80.00	08.11.2012	OYSTER AUTOTOPUP 0845 3309876	PASSENGER RAILWAYS
8.66	08.11.2012	TIMES+GBP 442078601130	CATALOGUE & RETAIL SHOPS
142.80	08.11.2012	WWW.MEMSET.COM GUILDFORD	PROGRAMMING, DATA PROC & SYSTEM DESIGN
94.14	12.11.2012	AMAZON MKTPLCE EU-UK AMAZON.CO.UK	BOOK STORES
0.00	12.11.2012	WWW.POSTURITE.CO.UK INTERNET	COMMERCIAL FURNITURE
133.80	14.11.2012	WWW.ADAPT-IT.CO.UK BOREHAMWOOD	COMPUTERS, PERIPHERALS & SOFTWARE
21.62	15.11.2012	CDSL PARTMASTER BIRMINGHABIRMINGHAM	ELECTRICAL PARTS & EQUIPMENT
2.66	20.11.2012	SACAT MARKS & SPENCER VICTORIA	GROCERY STORES
9.09	23.11.2012	AMAZON EU AMAZON.CO.UK	DIRECT SALES COMPANIES
135.90	26.11.2012	BT BILL PAYMENT 2 NEWCASTLE UPO	PHONE SERVICES & EQUIPMENT
13.24	26.11.2012	C W C UK ROOKSLEY	PHONE SERVICES & EQUIPMENT
25.40	26.11.2012	POST OFFICE COUNTER MORETON-IN-MA	POSTAGE STAMPS
6.49	26.11.2012	RYMAN 1201 VICTORIA	STATIONERY & OFFICE SUPPLIES STORES
0.84	26.11.2012	WWW.EDENSPRINGS.CO.UK INTERNET	MISC NON-DURABLE GOODS
18.79	27.11.2012	AMAZON MKTPLCE EU-UK AMAZON.CO.UK	BOOK STORES
5.00	27.11.2012	NEWQUAY AIRPORT NEWQUAY	AIRPORTS, FIELDS & TERMINALS
20.00	27.11.2012	OYSTER AUTOTOPUP 0845 3309876	PASSENGER RAILWAYS
8.66	27.11.2012	TIMES+GBP 442078601130	CATALOGUE & RETAIL SHOPS
142.80	27.11.2012	WWW.MEMSET.COM GUILDFORD	PROGRAMMING, DATA PROC & SYSTEM DESIGN
72.72	05.12.2012	BT BILL PAYMENT 2 NEWCASTLE UPO	PHONE SERVICES & EQUIPMENT
744.59	05.12.2012	SOUTHERN ELECTRIC INTERNET	UTILITIES
13.50	11.12.2012	BE UN LIMITED LONDON W2	PHONE SERVICES & EQUIPMENT
141.69	11.12.2012	THE RACKSPACE CLOUD 210-581-0410	COMPUTER NETWORK INFORMATION SERVICES
11.24	18.12.2012	AMAZON MKTPLCE EU-UK AMAZON.CO.UK	BOOK STORES
65.77	18.12.2012	AMAZON EU AMAZON.CO.UK	DIRECT SALES COMPANIES
249.36	18.12.2012	B'HAM CC-PAYMENTS BIR'HAM B4	GOVERNMENT SERVICES - DEFAULT
41.47	18.12.2012	EBUYER (UK) LTD SHEFFIELD	HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCE STORES
65.94	18.12.2012	WWW.POSTURITE.CO.UK INTERNET	COMMERCIAL FURNITURE

The information on GPC from April 2006 to October 2012 has already been published in responses to Parliamentary Questions. The Department is therefore not obliged to comply with a request for that information, by virtue of the exemption under section 21 of the FOI Act as the information is reasonably accessible by other means.

The responses to Parliamentary Questions can be found in Hansard at the websites below:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120112w0001.htm#12011283000078> and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121122/text/121122w0002.htm#12112248002116>

The answers refer to documents deposited in the Library of the House of Commons and these are at the website below:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/business-papers/commons/deposited-papers/?fd=2012-11-22&td=2012-11-22>
(reference Dep 2012-1730).

We have also updated the details for November and December 2012 which is above.

Whilst there is a role for electronic payments using such cards, under this Administration, the department has introduced new internal checks and audit trails on the use of the Government Procurement Card, from pre-approvals to requiring post-transaction reporting. We have significantly reduced the number of card holders. Our transparency agenda of publishing spending data online has also increased internal and external scrutiny of every single transaction on such charge cards.

As the Department explained in its publication, *50 ways to save: Examples of sensible savings in local government* published in December, the online transparency and tougher controls have helped cut expenditure on 'Central Departments' Government Procurement Cards' by over three-quarters, from £321,076 in 2009-10, to just £70,835 in 2011-12 and cut the number of card holders from 210 in May 2010 to just 26 in November 2012.

On the question of disciplinary action over misuse of company credit cards or Government Procurement Card, there has been none. To prevent fraud, there are rigorous financial controls as part of the Department's finance system. Staff in possession of a Government Procurement Card are made aware that deliberate or negligent misuse of the card may result in the suspension or withdrawal of their card and serious misuse could result in disciplinary and criminal action being taken against them.