



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

T:  
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk  
www.defra.gov.uk

**Your ref:**  
**Our ref:** RFI 5560  
**Date:** 9 July 2013

Dear [redacted]

### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT CARD SPENDING

Thank you for your request for information about Government Procurement Card spending, which we received on 12 June 2013. As you know, we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

1. *Please provide me with a breakdown of the department's spending via government procurement cards, in annual breakdown over the years 2010/2011/2012, listing how much was spent in each year.*

This table sets out the annual spend on Government Procurement Cards within the Department in the three years:

Year	Spend (£)
2010	3,719,515.50
2011	3,030,693.83
2012	1,893,517.18

2. *Please include in this breakdown the amount charged on each occasion over 2010/2011/2012, when it was charged, and what it was for. Please include detail like if any department trips, what the name of the hotel was, or any food – what the brand/restaurant was, as is feasible within cost/time limits.*

*I should add that I am conscious of the government's programme of publishing GPC spending monthly when the transactions are above £500. However I should make clear as regards any overlap of my request with already publicly available information, that I would*



*be interested in the information below £500.*

We want to be as open as possible in answering requests. The FOIA itself also requires us to help people obtain the information they are looking for. Unfortunately, the amount of information you have requested is very substantial, and gathering it together would involve a significant cost and diversion of resources from the Department's other work.

Section 12(1) of the FOIA allows us to refuse a request for information if we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit, which currently stands at £600. On the basis of our estimates, we consider that the cost would exceed this limit and, as such, we are refusing your request. However, if you were to make a new request for a narrower category of information, it may be that we could comply with that request within the appropriate limit, although I cannot guarantee that this will be the case.

The best way we can help you is to ask you to consider narrowing down your request to focus more clearly on the precise information you are seeking. You could, for example:

- if you specified a time period in your request, consider reducing it (e.g. if you requested information on a particular topic from the last ten years, would you be content with information from the last five years?);
- browse through the material that has already been made publicly available by Defra to see if this would help you identify more precise questions that we might be able to answer at less cost. Details of expenditure over £500 on Government Procurement Cards is available at <http://www.data.gov.uk/publisher/department-for-environment-food-and-rural-affairs>. Data covering months subsequent to those already available will be published as soon as possible.

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

[redacted]

## **Annex A**

### **Copyright**

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

Most documents produced by Defra will be protected by Crown Copyright. Most Crown copyright information can be re-used under the Open Government Licence. For information about the OGL and about re-using Crown Copyright information please see The National Archives website.

Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the Intellectual Property Office's website.

---

## **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](mailto: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