



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

Department of Energy & Climate Change

3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2AW
www.gov.uk/decc

Freedom of Information Request – 13/1298

9th October 2013

Dear

Thank you for your correspondence of 18th September 2013. You have requested the following information:

I request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

For the years 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13;

- 1.) The number of internships and work experience places completed at the department*
- 2.) The age of each intern and those on work experience*
- 3.) The duration of each internship and work experience placement*
- 4.) The roles carried out by each intern and those on work experience during this period*
- 5.) Any payments made to each intern and those on work experience*

Freedom of Information Act 2000:

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'). Under the Act you have the right to:

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

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was created in October 2008, to bring together energy policy (previously with BERR, which is now BIS - the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills), and climate change mitigation policy (previously with DEFRA - the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs). Therefore we do not hold any information prior to this date.

The Department does not maintain central records for work experience placements and internships. Therefore, DECC does not centrally hold the specific information you have requested and we estimate that providing the details that you have requested 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. To obtain this information would involve contacting all line managers within the department. This exercise is estimated to take longer than the 3.5 working day limit. We are currently looking to develop a more structured recording system within the Department for such placements.

Detailed below are additional responses to some of your individual questions.

- 1) The number of internships and work experience places completed at the department

I can confirm that we do, however, operate our internships and work experience policy in line with the Civil Service wide policy for such placements.

- 3) The duration of each internship and work experience placement

In line with the Civil Service and DECC's policy on internships and work experience, our placement durations are managed accordingly. Work experience placements are, on average for two weeks, and do not exceed eight weeks. Internship placements are on average between six weeks and twelve months.

- 5) Any payments made to each intern and those on work experience

In line with the Civil Service and DECC's policy on internships and work experience, any payment are managed accordingly. Work experience placements are unpaid, whilst internship placements are salaried in line with the grade relevant to the role.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain relating to those employed on internships. For example, internships are recorded on our system as fixed term appointments, although not all fixed term appointments are internships.

Appeals Procedure

If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information, you may request an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter. If you wish to request an internal review, please send this to the Information Rights Unit at:

Information Rights Unit
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET
E-mail: foi.requests@bis.gsi.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 Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Yours faithfully