



Your ref:
Our ref: RFI 00006391
Date: 20th March 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Appointment of women to public office.

Thank you for your request for information about the appointment of women to public office, which we received on 26th February. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I enclose a copy of the information you requested below.

This Government's aspiration is that 50% of new public appointees should be women by the end of this Parliament. The Cabinet Office has published an action-based diversity plan outlining how Government is working to meet that target. In the first six months of this financial year 45% of new public appointments made by Whitehall departments were women. This is the first year this information has been published and it will be updated on a six monthly basis. Over the last 8-10 years the number of women appointed to the boards of public bodies has remained static at around 36%. This is not just about gender; diversity is about encouraging applications from candidates with the widest range of backgrounds.

- *Total number of paid public appointments (including reappointments) made by Defra between April and September 2013 – 24*

Figures published by the Cabinet Office showing the total number of new appointments (paid and unpaid) here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/262039/diversity-pub-appointments-1-April-30-Sept-2013.csv/preview

- *How many of these were made to women – 6*

Figures published by the Cabinet Office showing the percentage of all public appointments (paid and unpaid) made to women here

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/262039/diversity-pub-appointments-1-April-30-Sept-2013.csv/preview



- Which posts were women appointed to – **see below**
- Which of these were reappointments and which were new appointments to paid public bodies – **see below.**

BODY	New or Reappointment	ROLE	DATE OF APPOINTMENT
Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE)	New	Chair	01/09/2013
Veterinary Products Committee (VPC)	New	Member	01/08/2013 (took up post 01/01/14)
Consumer Council for Water (CCW)	Reappointment	Chair	01/04/2013
CCW	Reappointment	Member	30/06/2013
Covent Garden Market Authority (CGMA)	New	Member	21/09/2013
CGMA	Reappointment	Member	21/09/2013

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

[REDACTED]
Defra Public Appointments Team

[REDACTED]@defra.gsi.gov.uk

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

