



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

Department of Energy and Climate Change
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www.gov.uk/decc

DECC ref: 13/1481

November 2013

Dear xxxxx,

I refer to your e-mail of 21st October which requested the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act):

“the total amount paid by DECC by way of business rates in relation to DECC’s own vacant property/accommodation for each of the financial years 2008/9, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, and 2012/13 and also the total number of properties which incurred such costs for each of those years.

If a forecast figure for empty property rates payments in 2013/14 or 2014/15 or 2015/16 exists, to provide those as well.”

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

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

I can confirm that the Department holds the information you have requested. The information you requested is as follows.

The department has not paid any amount of money for vacant properties over the financial years you list and does not foresee paying for vacant properties in the next few years.



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Appeals procedure

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 sent to the Information Rights Unit at the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, as they provide a shared FOI advice service to DECC:

Information Rights Unit
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
1 Victoria Street
London, SW1H 0ET
E-mail: foi@decc.gsi.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number at the top of this response 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.

Yours sincerely

DECC Estates