



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Your ref:
Our ref: RFI 5986
Date: 5 December 2013

Dear,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: SECONDMENTS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Thank you for your request for information about secondments from external organisations to Defra, which we received on 12 November 2013. As you know, we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

"I would like to request a list of all personnel from external organisations who have been seconded to work at the Department:

1. Full name
2. Job title
3. Department they worked in
4. Organisation or body seconded from
5. Description of their area of responsibility
6. Salary
7. Dates of secondment

I would like to limit my request from 31 May 2010 to the present day."

On 13 November I asked you to clarify your request. You responded on the same day stating:

"When referring to external organisations I mean external to points 1-3 in your reply i.e. external to DEFRA, non departmental bodies, agencies, civil service and other public sector bodies etc. Also I would like information to cover DEFRA and its executive agencies if possible."

The information you requested is shown in the table below. All seconded staff listed worked in core Defra as there were no secondees within the scope of your request that worked in any of Defra's Executive Agencies.



Ref	Job Title	Dept worked in	Seconded from	Start Date	End Date
1	Sustainable Living	Sustainable Behaviours Unit	National Trust	1 Mar 10	3 Sep 10
2	Policy Advisor	Adapting to Climate Change	Transport Research Laboratory	6 Oct 08	30 Sep 10
3	Head of Project Development	Waste Infrastructure Delivery Programme	RPS Group	4 Aug 03	31 Mar 11
4	Senior Adviser	Waste Infrastructure Delivery Programme	RPS Group	15 Aug 07	31 Mar 11
5	Policy Adviser	Local Environmental Quality - Water, Floods, Environmental Risk and Regulation	ENCAMS (Keep Britain Tidy)	1 Apr 09	31 Mar 11
6	Policy Adviser on the Natural Environment White Paper	Natural Environment Strategy Unit	Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust	9 Nov 10	31 May 11
7	Policy Adviser	Rural Development, Sustainable Communities and Crops	The Prince of Wales' Office	9 Jan 12	22 Mar 13
8	Inspector	Operations Team, Drinking Water Inspectorate	Anglian Water	1 Oct 12	31 Mar 13
9	Inspector	Operations Team, Drinking Water Inspectorate	Anglian Water	1 Oct 12	31 Mar 13
10	Strategy Advisor	Strategy Unit, Strategic Directorate	Institute for Government	15 Oct 12	31 Mar 13
11	Not known	Better Regulation Team	Veolia	14 Jan 13	31 Jul 13
12	Policy Advisor - Waste Prevention	Waste Prevention Team, Waste Strategy and Management	Resource Futures	15 Apr 13	4 Sep 13
13	Policy Official on Discards	CFP Management & Discards, Marine Programme	Revill Nation	2 Apr 12	29 Sep 13
14	Policy Adviser	Sustainable Business and Environmental Reporting, Green Economy	Carbon Disclosure Project	12 Nov 12	31 Oct 13
15	Market reform implementation	Water Availability and Quality Programme/Water Reform	Thames Water	3 Dec 12	2 Dec 13
16	Smarter Environmental Regulation Review officer	Strategy and Private Office	Veolia	1 Jul 13	17 Jan 14

The names of the secondees have been withheld. I confirm that Defra does hold the information that you have requested, but we have decided that the information should be withheld under section 40(2) (third party personal data) of the FOIA as the information constitutes personal data relating to third party parties. Section 40(2) of the FOIA provides that personal data relating to third parties is exempt information if disclosure would breach the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).

We consider that disclosure of this information is likely to breach the first data protection principle in Schedule 1 to the DPA, which relates to the fair and lawful processing of personal data, in two ways. First, disclosure would not constitute 'fair' processing of the personal data, and second, disclosure would not satisfy any of the conditions for data processing set out in Schedule 2 to the DPA. Therefore, we have concluded that this information is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the FOIA.

We can neither confirm nor deny that Defra holds any information relating to secondments from the security bodies listed in section 23(3) of the FOIA, as the duty to comply with section 1(1)(a) of the Act does not apply by virtue of section 23(5). Section 23(5) is an absolute exemption and no public interest consideration is required.

Defra does not record centrally a description of the area of responsibility for its staff.

Defra does not hold details of the salaries of staff where they are paid by the seconding organisation, which is the case for all secondees listed.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

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 sincerely,

Ann Tarran

Direct Line 020 7979 8583

Email ann.tarran@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Annex A

Copyright

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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