



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk  
www.gov.uk/defra

**Your ref:** 103/14  
**Our ref:** RFI 6227  
**Date:** 29 January 2014

Dear

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:** Defra spend on contractors

Thank you for your request for information about Defra's spend on contractors, which we received on 23 January. We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

**You asked:**

Please could you provide me with data on how much DEFRA spent on contractors (in total) in 2012. Please note that I am interested specifically on expenditure on contracted services, not total expenditure on third parties in general.

Just to clarify, I am interested in DEFRA's expenditure on contractors for outsourced public services. Is this information exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the FOIA?

**In response:**

I am writing to advise you that the information you have requested is not held by Defra. Where Defra has contracted services out to private companies then the staff costs would be a matter for that company to manage. Defra would monitor the company's overall performance against the terms and conditions stipulated in the contract. As the information you asked for is not held, section 21 of the FOIA is not applicable. We therefore do not propose to provide any additional information in respect of your request.

I attach an annex giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service that you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me.



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE

Yours

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## **Annex**

### **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