



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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

**Your ref:**  
**Our ref:** RFI 5812  
**Date:** 8 October 2013

Dear

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Consultancy and Project Advisory Costs in the financial year 2012/13**

Thank you for your request for information about consultancy costs in 2012/13, which we received on 13 September. As you know, we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

1. How much has your department spent on consultancy costs in the financial year 2012/2013
2. How much has your department spent on project advisory costs in the financial year 2012/2013?
3. What were the three biggest single payments for individual contracts, who was the payment made to and provide a two sentence summary of what the consultancy was for?

The information you requested is as follows:

1. Details of Defra's expenditure on consultancy can be found in the table on page 51 of the Department's Annual Report and Accounts 2012-13 ([https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/224329/defra-year-end-accounts2012-13.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/224329/defra-year-end-accounts2012-13.pdf))
2. The Department's financial system does not record project advisory costs as a separate category of expenditure. It is therefore not possible to answer this part of your request.



3. The three biggest single payments for individual consultancy contracts in 2012/13 were:

Supplier	£	Description
Liberata UK Ltd	409,288.00	Provision of Nitrate Vulnerable Zone appeal charges: Provision of administrative services for handling of appeal documents and arranging paper and oral hearings; judicial determination of appeals; and issue to parties to the appeal of determinations (decisions) taken on appeals.
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer	234,461.17	Commercial legal advice between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013 for the Thames Tideway Tunnel Project.
Treasury Solicitor	167,120.19	Legal Services on Major Projects - Thames Tunnel Order. Covering Financial Year 2012/13.

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](http://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

**Pam Beadman**

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## 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](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