



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Your ref:
Our ref: RFI 5725
Date: 19 September
2013

Dear,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: SECONDMENTS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Thank you for your request for information about secondments from external organisations, which we received on 19 August 2013. As you know we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

"I am writing to make a request for the following information, under the Freedom of Information Act, regarding 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'd like to limit my request from 1 January 2011 to the present day."

On 11 September you confirmed that your request covered staff seconded from "private sector organisations only (such as private companies, charities and voluntary organisations)" and that your request covered core Defra if it would exceed the cost limit to include Defra's five executive agencies. As this would be the case, the information provided in the table below covers core Defra only.



Ref No	Grade Equivalent	Department worked in	Seconded from	Secondment Start Date	Secondment End Date
1	SEO	Atmosphere and Local Environment	ENCAMS (Keep Britain Tidy)	01 Apr 2009	31 Mar 2011
2	SCS Pay Band 2	Waste	RPS Group	15 Aug 2007	31 Mar 2011
3	Grade 7	Marine and Natural Environment	Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust	09 Nov 2010	31 May 2011
4	HEO	Rural Development, Sustainable Communities and Crops	The Prince of Wales' Office	09 Jan 2012	22 Mar 2013
5	SEO	Water Ongoing Function	Anglian Water	01 Oct 2012	31 Mar 2013
6	SEO	Water Ongoing Function	Anglian Water	01 Oct 2012	31 Mar 2013
7	Grade 7	Strategy Portfolio	Institute for Government	15 Oct 2012	31 Mar 2013
8	HEO	Strategy Portfolio	Veolia	14 Jan 2013	31 Jul 2013
9	HEO	Marine Programme	Revill Nation	02 Apr 2012	29 Sep 2013
10	HEO	Climate Change	Carbon Disclosure Project	12 Nov 2012	31 Oct 2013
11	Grade 6	Water Programme	Thames Water	03 Dec 2012	02 Dec 2013
12	HEO	Strategy Portfolio	Veolia	01 Jul 2013	17 Jan 2014
13	HEO	Waste	Resource Futures	15 Apr 2013	14 Apr 2014

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.

Defra does not record job titles, however, the grade equivalent of the roles the staff were seconded into has been disclosed.

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.

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.

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