

Telephone 08459 33 55 77
Website www.defra.gov.uk

Our ref RFI 5814
Date 26 September 2013

Dear,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: STAFF SECONDED FROM OR FORMER EMPLOYEES OF THE NFU

Thank you for your request for information about staff seconded from or former employees of the NFU, which we received on 3 September 2013. As you know, we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

“Has any person, how many times, how many occasions, for how long, since what date have employees or former employees of National Farmers Union, or of NFU Mutual been employed or gained work experience or acting as paid or unpaid workers with Department of Environment Food and Agriculture, or on secondment to Defra,”

You were then asked to narrow down the request further with some specifics dates and whether you wanted a response relating to Defra only or Defra and its Executive Agencies.

You replied:

“Time period 1 August 2008 - 31 July 2013 and extent Defra and Executive Agencies or Defra only.”

I can confirm that there have been no secondments of staff between Defra and the National Farmers Union.

In response to your request regarding Defra staff who have been employed by the National Farmers Union. Information regarding the previous employment of staff is not held on a central database. It may be divulged under the application process however it is not captured electronically. To enable us to provide such a level of information would result

in disproportionate costs being incurred and therefore, I am not able to provide that detail to you.

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 within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Mike Kaye, Head of Information Standards, Area 1B, Ergon House, Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 2AL (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, you have 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