



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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

Your ref:
Our ref: RFI 5760
Date: 10 September 2013

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Payments to external PR Agencies

Thank you for your request for information about payments to external PR agencies, which we received on 21 August 2013. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked for details of:

1. The amount of money spent by the Department on external PR agencies in the financial years 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14
2. The names of individual PR companies, a brief description of the work they have done for the Department and the amount of money they received for each project in the financial years 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14

In order to address your requests, we gathered input from colleagues within Defra who were likely to have utilised the services of PR agencies; and, to ensure we hadn't overlooked any potential expenditure, we queried our financial systems to identify any spend with the organisations listed in *PR Week's* list of the Top 150 PR Agencies 2013 at <http://www.prweek.com/uk/wide/1187972/Top-150-table-2013>.

We established from all these enquiries that no payments were made to external PR agencies during the periods you specified.

If you wish us to search for any specific agencies that were not included on the *PR Week* list, please supply the names and we will be happy to investigate further. Please note that a 20-working-day timescale for responding would commence from the date that we received such a 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.

Yours

Pam Beadman

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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) 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