

Via email:

Ref no: 13/1412

25 October 2013

Thank you for your email of 9 October 2013 where you requested the following information:

Please could you send me a list of all pseudonyms, nick names, code names and alternative names for ministers, MPs, officials and other individuals known by your department - including words which are not traditionally used as names - which have been devised by or referenced by the department.

Please could you tell me who these pseudonyms relate to, who devised them, who has used them (please name officials, ministers and special advisers), all documentation, emails and other references to their use; any references to their use in relation to freedom of information requests, including any discussion of their use in all written fora, including notes of any conversations.

Please include all correspondence and communication relating to and including pseudonyms, nick names, code names and alternative names with other government departments and outside bodies.

Please explain who devised them, when and why.

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'). Under the Act you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you have requested and;
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

DECC does not hold central records of such information for Ministers and SPADs and from our preliminary assessment to gather information on other DECC officials, it is clear that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the cost limit of £600 provided under s12 of the Act. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the Department holds the information and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. The Act provides that we are not obliged to comply with requests where the estimated cost of complying would exceed this limit.

In order to provide you with the information on the scale that you have requested would require the department writing to each member of staff to ascertain if any such list is maintained.

We estimate that it will take us in excess of 3.5 working days to determine appropriate material and locate, retrieve and extract the information in reference to your request. Therefore, your request will not be processed further.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope by being more specific about what information you particularly wish to obtain, including any dates, periods of time or specific DECC officials, relevant to the information required.

Appeals procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Information Rights Unit (foi@decc.gsi.gov.uk).

Information Rights Unit (DECC Shared Service)
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.