



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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

**Your ref:**  
**Our ref:** RFI 6157  
**Date:** 8 January 2014

Dear

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Payments to Improwise Ltd**

Thank you for your request regarding payments made to Improwise Ltd, which we received on 7 January 2013. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

**You asked:**

1. The total amount of money paid to Improwise Ltd in 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 and 2013-to date by your organisation and its subsidiaries broken down by each individual payment.
2. Details of any bookings that your organisation or its subsidiaries have with Improwise Ltd but have not yet been paid.
3. For any payments or bookings to the company please provide me with a description of the services provided by Improwise in return, including:
  - a. The title of each of the courses provided or planned.
  - b. The details of any venue used or planned to deliver the course and the cost of the use of the venue

**In response:**

Core Defra has made no payments to Improwise Ltd, or any of its other trading names, in any of the four financial years 2010-11 to 2013-14 (to date).

Please note, however, that Defra works with a number of agencies and public bodies, each with their own financial recording systems. Section 12(1) of the FOIA allows us to



refuse a request for information if we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit, which currently stands at £600. This helps to ensure that staff costs and time are not diverted from delivering the department's strategic aims. We calculate that the total staff costs involved in liaising with each of these bodies and arranging for those bodies to pull together the information required to answer your questions in full would exceed £600.

If you wish, you can contact the bodies individually, as they will each have their own cost limit for responding to such requests. The full list can be found on pages 179-180 of the 2012-13 Annual Report and Accounts at:

[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)

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**

T: 01904 455658

E: [pam.beadman@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pam.beadman@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](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