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for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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**Your ref:**  
**Our ref:** RFI 5832  
**Date:** 23 October 2013

Dear,

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: INTERNSHIPS**

Thank you for your request for information about Internships, which we received on 18 September 2013. As you know, we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

*“For the years 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13;*

- 1.) The number of internships and work experience places completed at the department*
- 2.) The age of each intern and those on work experience*
- 3.) The duration of each internship and work experience placement*
- 4.) The roles carried out by each intern and those on work experience during this period*
- 5.) Any payments made to each intern and those on work experience”*

We want to be as open as possible in answering requests. The FOIA itself also requires us to help people obtain the information they are looking for. Unfortunately, the amount of information you have requested is very substantial, and gathering it together would involve a significant cost and diversion of resources from the Department's other work. Gathering it together would therefore involve a significant cost and diversion of resources from the Department's other work.

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. On the basis of our estimates, we consider that the cost would exceed this limit.



Rather than refuse your request in its entirety, and in order to advise and assist with your enquiry, we are providing some information for 2012/13 as it is readily available. It is as follows:

<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>Graduate Interns</b>	<b>Work Experience</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Total	5	2	
Age	21 - 25	16 - 17	
Duration	July - Sept	13 – 24 Aug	
Payment	£25,363	£18,753	This was pro-rata for the period of the internship/ work experience

Work Area	Project description
Rural Development Policy Planning	Exploring how Structural Funds can be used to achieve Defra objectives on Rural Development Programme.
Biodiversity	Helping planning for a global biodiversity meeting in India, Oct 2012
Communications	Defra and Network Channel Audit and Strategy
Climate, Waste and Atmosphere	Helping set up Climate Waste and Atmosphere's portfolio management approach
Human Resources	To make contact with a range of Government Departments and to investigate the current provision of casework. Assist with core Department reshaping implementation.
EU and UK Biodiversity Policy Delivery	Analysis of communications materials and web content, including presenting the analysis in a short paper with recommendations.

We were unable to acquire data on the role of one of the students who did work experience as direct line management has left Defra. Therefore this information is not held by Defra.

If you were to make a new request for a narrower category of information, it may be that we could comply with that request within the appropriate limit, although I cannot guarantee that this will be the case.

Please note that if you modify your request, we will handle it as a new request and so the 20-working-day deadline for responding to requests would then commence from the date that we receive the modified request.

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](mailto: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](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