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Our ref: **12/1713**

19 December 2012

Dear

RE: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your FOI request of 4 December 2012, in which you asked for the following:

“For the Minister in your department, please provide a list of all the gifts and offers of hospitality that the Minister has received over the past twelve months. Please give a brief description of the gift/the hospitality, its value and the date it was offered.

For gifts, please describe if it was kept by the Minister or if it was retained by the department.

For hospitality, please note whether or not the Minister accepted the hospitality.

As some ministers have changed within the past 12 months, please provide the name of the minister at the time next to each gift/hospitality description.”

All Gifts and Hospitality received by DECC ministers are published quarterly on the DECC website at this link:

<http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/registers.aspx>

The most recently published list covers the second quarter of 2012. Therefore the information on ministerial gifts and hospitality up to the end of June 2012 is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), because the information is accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain.

Information about ministerial gifts and hospitality after June 2012 is exempt under Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act as the information is intended for publication at a future date on the Department's website at the above 'Transparency and Freedom of Information' web link. Section 22 is a qualified exemption and we have therefore considered the public interest test. There is a public interest in knowing information about ministerial gifts and hospitality as this leads to greater transparency in government. However, the

best use of public resources would be applied in pulling this information together, ensuring the information is accurate and published in a consistent and comprehensive format, rather than issuing it in a piecemeal fashion. This information is still being checked prior to publication. Please be assured that the Department is committed to publishing this information. Having considered the public interest test, the Department's decision is to withhold the requested information on ministerial gifts and Hospitality after June 2012.

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: **Information Rights Unit** (foi@decc.gov.uk)

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 Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,