



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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www.defra.gov.uk

Our ref: RFI 5935
Date: 18 November 2013

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Food wastage

Thank you for your request for information about *food wastage* in Defra which we received on 21st October. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

We enclose a copy of some of the information you requested. However, some of the more specific information you have requested is not held by Defra.

1 How much food is supplied in the department's staff canteen(s) and in any food for any other purposes, e.g. in snack machines or as refreshments for meetings.

This information is not held by Defra.

However, we can confirm that Core Defra occupies sites in London, York, Alnwick and Bristol. Catering is provided by a third party contractor at Nobel House in London and Kings Pool in York. There is no catering provision at Lion House in Alnwick and core Defra is a minor occupier at Temple Quay House in Bristol, with no responsibility for the services in that building.

Please provide a monthly breakdown of: The food supplied into the department, the average/estimated quantity supplied. And how much it costs to provide that foodstuff.

This information is not held by Defra.

3 Please provide any guidance on what the department does to dispose of food waste

Food waste at Defra's London and York sites is sent to anaerobic digestion. Food waste from the Alnwick site (limited to staff snack/lunch food) is disposed of via landfill as it would be uneconomic to provide a separate service at the small site which has no catering facilities. Defra is a minor occupier at Temple Quay House in Bristol, with no responsibility for the services in that building.

Defra is signed up as a supporter of the Hospitality and Food Services Agreement and we encourage our catering supplier to minimise food waste at all times. This requirement to minimise waste also forms part of the catering contract.



4 How much unused food does the department throw away? Please provide in a monthly breakdown of the total weight of all the thrown away food.

Please see the following table. Please note that these weights include all food waste – this includes tea bags, peelings, apple cores, coffee grounds etc. We would not consider these items to be usable food. Data is not yet available from Defra's waste management contractors post June.

	Weight (kg)	
	Nobel House	Foss House (estimates)
December 2012	not available	400
January 2013	1,753	500
February 2013	2,037	400
March 2013	2,397	409
April 2013	1,618	400
May 2013	4,805	500
June 2013	4,805	400

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 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 us.

Yours

Defra Estates

M: estates.correspondence@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) 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