



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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

Your ref:
Our ref: RFI 6250
Date: 27 February 2014

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Spending on consultancy and temporary staff

Thank you for your request for information about spending on consultancy and temporary staff, which we received on 31 January. We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked for:

The explanation for why Defra spending on consultancy and temporary staff has increased by 16% from 2011-12 to 2012-13. Please include details of which 5 projects or programmes have incurred the largest consultancy and temporary staff costs and the corresponding amounts.

In response:

Consultancy expenditure increased by £2.8m between 2011/12 and 2012/13. The key reasons for the increase are:

- An increase in administrative services for the first set of statutory draft Water Resources Management Plans, which are subject to public consultation for the first time.
- Increased costs on the Thames Tideway Tunnel Project, relating to specialist commercial finance and legal advice, not available in-house.
- The Rural Payment Agency's Strategic Improvement Project and Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Delivery Programme consultancy expenditure, for which there was no comparable spend in the previous year.



Temporary staff expenditure increased by £8.5m between 2011/12 and 2012/13. The key reason for the increase is:

- The use of contractors and agency staff at the Rural Payments Agency, who have been used to support delivery of the Strategic Improvement Project and Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Delivery Programme

The following table shows the details of the top five programmes by expenditure on consultants or temporary staff.

Programme Description	Amount (£'000)
Common Agricultural Policy Delivery Programme and Strategic Improvement Programme	8,300
Waste Infrastructure Delivery	2,657
Water Programme - Water Supply, Waste Water & Infrastructure	2,460
Procurement and commercial function	845
On-boarding Development Costs	714

I attach an annex giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service that 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

Annex A

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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