



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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

**Your ref:**  
**Our ref:** RFI 6349  
**Date:** 21 March 2014

Dear Mr

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Spend on Cars**

Thank you for your request for information about the amount spent on cars, which we received on 25 February 2014. As you know we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

**You asked**

How much was spent on cars for travel for Environment Agency and Defra staff in 2013?

**Our response**

Government Departments and their associated Network Bodies report on a financial year rather than a calendar year basis. We have therefore provided figures relating to financial year April 2012 to March 2013, as this is the last complete year for which we hold data.

In that period, the Environment Agency spent £10.30m on lease costs for cars used for business travel. This figure reflects the Environment Agency's contribution for the provision of lease cars for business travel net of driver's contributions and income tax for personal use.

In the same period, Core Defra spent £0.04m on costs recorded on the Department's finance systems as Vehicle Hire Charges for business travel.

The Environment Agency and Defra each develop and maintain their own policies on the use of lease/hire cars within their organisation. Cars are only used for travel when absolutely necessary.



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

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## 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