



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

Redacted
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Department of Energy & Climate Change

3 Whitehall Place,
London SW1A 2AW

www.decc.gov.uk

Our ref: FOI 14/0800

19 June 2014

Dear **Redacted**

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 21 May 2014 in which you requested the following:

“Please disclose the cost of establishing and running the secretary of state's Extended Ministerial Office since its introduction. Please include staff salary costs.”

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

The information you have requested is being withheld because it is exempt under section 22(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 22 exempts information intended for future publication.

Section 22 is a qualified exemption and I have considered whether the public interest favours releasing the information or withholding it. In considering whether the public interest favours releasing the information or withholding it the



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Department of Energy and Climate Change recognises there is a general public interest in disclosure in the fact that openness in government increases public trust in and engagement with the government. On the other hand, there is a compelling public interest in the effective and efficient management of ministerial private offices. Preparations for publishing this information are in place and diverting resources from those preparations in order to respond to an individual request might delay publication to a wider audience: that would not be in the public interest. Taking into account all the circumstances of the case, the Department of Energy and Climate Change has determined that the balance of the public interest favours withholding this information.

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 the Information Rights Unit (foi@decc.gsi.gov.uk).

Information Rights Unit (DECC Shared Service)
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

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,

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