



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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**Your ref:**  
**Our ref:** RFI 6559  
**Date:** 30 May 2014

Dear

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: RECRUITMENT 2013/14

Thank you for your request for information about recruitment in 2013/14, which we received on 30 April 2014. As you know, we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

*"In regards to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs recruitment spend:*

- 1) How many positions have you advertised in the same date period (i.e. last financial year)?*
- 2) What were the position titles that were advertised (e.g. administrator)?*
- 3) What date were these positions advertised?*
- 4) How many of these positions were filled?*
- 5) What dates were these positioned filled?"*

I enclose a copy of the information we hold covering questions 1, 2, 3 and partially question 4 in core Defra during the financial year 2013/14.

Regarding question 4, whilst I am able to confirm that some roles have been filled, it is not possible to confirm this on all vacancies, one reason being that there is no facility to record that a role remains unfilled. To enable us to provide this information would entail checking the records for each vacancy advertised and would be likely to involve a significant cost and diversion of resources from the Department's other work.

Regarding question 5, the dates the positions were filled is not recorded on the Civil Service Recruitment system. To enable us to provide this information would entail checking the records for each successful candidate and would be likely to involve a significant cost and diversion of resources from the Department's other work.

Section 12(1) of the FOIA allows us to refuse a request for information if we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit, which currently stands at £600. On the basis of our estimates, we consider that the cost would exceed this limit and, as such, we are refusing this part of your request.



In such cases, we usually offer the requester the opportunity to make a new request for a narrower category of information. However, as some of the information requested is not held centrally, there does not appear to be a way that your request could be further narrowed that would enable us to provide an answer.

Please note that if you are able to modify your request, we will handle it as a new request and so the 20-working-day deadline for responding to requests would then commence from the date that we receive the modified request.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

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 sincerely,

Ann Tarran

**Direct Line** 020 7979 8583

**Email** [ann.tarran@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ann.tarran@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](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