



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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

Your ref:
Our ref: RFI 6588
Date: 01 June 2014

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: The Department's Spend on Books

Thank you for your request for information about the total amount Defra spent on books within the last financial year. As you know, we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

Please could you provide me with information on how many books you have bought within the last financial year.

Please exclude books directly related to the education and library sectors. I am interested to also know how you have categorised the types of book too. If you could deliver this into sub department sections of regional areas, that would also be helpful but am not expecting this.

In response:

The Department spent the following amounts on the purchase of and subscriptions to publications in 2012-13, the last complete financial year for which information is available:

Description	Total Spend (£)
Purchase of Publications	66,501
Subscriptions to Publications	56,406
Grand Total	122,907

Information relating to 2013-14 will be available in July 2014, once the Department's accounts for the year have been audited and published.

We want to be as open as possible in answering requests. However, the way transactions are recorded on our financial system is such that it is not possible to identify how many publications were purchased; whether those purchases were books, magazines or some



other form of publication; or how those publications were categorised.

The FOIA requires us to help people obtain the information they are looking for. Unfortunately, to answer your question would require us to undertake extensive investigations across the Department in order to identify the number of books purchased, and this would 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 element of your request.

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 me.

Yours

Pam Beadman
pam.beadman@defra.gsi.gov.uk
01904 455658

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