



Department  
of Energy &  
Climate Change

**Department of Energy & Climate  
Change**

3 Whitehall Place,  
London SW1A 2AW  
[www.decc.gov.uk](http://www.decc.gov.uk)

**Redacted**  
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Our ref: FOI2014/25245

4 December 2014

Dear **Redacted**

**Re: Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email of 10 November in which you asked for the following:

*“The total payments made by your department to the ‘Government Car and Despatch Agency’ or the ‘Government Car Service’ for each of the past three financial years (2010/11, 2012/13, 2013/14), and the payments made by your department so far this financial year.*

*If possible please provide me with the breakdown of these payments by Minister responsible for them due to use of the GCS.*

*Please also provide me with details of any other payments made by the department for the provision of cars for Minister’s or Special Advisors. !*

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 Department has only one ministerial car which is shared on a daily basis by all the Department’s Ministers for journeys when conducting official business.

Regarding the first part of your request please see the total amount paid to the Government Car Service between:

- 2010/11: £131,272.97
- 2011/12: £36,687.79



## Department of Energy & Climate Change

- 2012/13: £87,070.46

Figures for **2013/14** are exempt from disclosure under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as the information is intended for publication at a future date. Section 22 is a qualified exemption and we have therefore considered the public interest test. We acknowledge that there is a public interest in disclosure of information about the use of the ministerial car as this leads to greater transparency in government. However each year a written Ministerial statement is laid in the House of Commons on the cost of Government Cars for the previous financial year, and you will find the information you have requested on the House of Commons website when published. There is a public interest in ensuring that this information is published consistently in this way. Having considered the public interest test, we consider that the public interest in disclosing this information is outweighed by the public interest considerations in favour of withholding the information. The Department's decision is to withhold this information.

Regarding the second part of your request i.e. *"the breakdown of these payments by Minister..."* I have carried out a search of our paper and electronic records and I have established that the Department does not hold this information.

The third part of your request asked for *"details of any other payments made by the department for the provision of cars for Minister's or Special Advisors."* The following shows how much was spent on:

Other car hire or taxi services:

- 2010/11: £20,999.89
- 2011/12: £31,786.60
- 2012/13: £8,140.97
- 2013 to date: £8,895.43

The Ministerial Code states that ministers are permitted the use of a government car for official business and for working on official papers during journeys between home and work. See page 23, of the Code. Click link at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/ministerial-code-may-2010.pdf>

### **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](mailto:foi@decc.gsi.gov.uk)).

Information Rights Unit (DECC Shared Service)



Department  
of Energy &  
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Department for Business, Innovation & Skills  
1 Victoria Street  
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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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