



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

Department of Energy & Climate Change

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Our ref: FOI2014/20255

29 September 2014

RE: Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your email of 5 September where you have requested the following information:

How many people are employed in the communications department of your department? How many of these employees are considered press officers?

Please provide any guidance the department has for press officers and communications staff dealing with journalists.

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).

DECC Communications Directorate consists 59 full time staff which includes 12 press officers and the Head of News.

DECC Correspondence Unit which processes all ministerial and general public correspondence includes 21 of the Communications Directorate's 59 full time staff.



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Guidance for Press Officers is contained in the Government Communication Service Handbook which is accessible at:

https://gcn.civilservice.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/GCS-Handbook_April14.pdf

As this information is already in the public domain it is therefore exempt under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 21 exempts information if this information is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means.

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 Services)
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Communications