

The number and annual salary cost (excluding on costs) of (a) Press Officers, (b) Communications staff and (c) Special Advisers employed by the Department at the 31st March 2014 is set out below¹.

	Total Headcount	Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	Staff salary cost (2013/14)
Press Officers	17	16.75	£707,623
Communications Staff	25	24	£997,059
Special Advisers	2	2	£129,000

The comparable annual salary cost (excluding on cost) of Press Officers, Communications staff and Special Advisers employed by the Department in each of the last three financial years is set out below.

Year	Comms Staff	Press Officers	Special Advisers
31/03/2011	£1,604,353	£874,656	£129,000
31/03/2012	£1,446,743	£737,206	£129,000
31/03/2013	£1,100,497	£785,306	£129,000

Ministers answered a Parliamentary Question last year noting how significant savings have been made on communications spending; it noted, in contrast, how spending on communications staffing in 2009-10 was an estimated £4.5 million a year, for 103 staff, with an additional £1.1 million being spend on external public relations agencies on top. The answer can be found at:
http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130613/text/130613w0001.htm#130613w0001.htm_wqn23

¹ Figures taken from the Department's HR database as of 31st March 2014