



1 May 2014

FOI ENQUIRY - EXPENDITURE ON FUSION PROJECTS

Dear Terry,

Thank you for your enquiry, dated 1 April 2014, and subsequent emails, requesting information about expenditure on the fusion projects at our fusion laboratory the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy (CCFE). Please find enclosed our response to each part in turn below. I have included information provided previously for completeness.

1) What are the capital costs (expenditure) of the Culham Research Labs for JET and MAST combined since the start of the projects?

We do not have a full breakdown of costs between capital and running costs. Expenditure on MAST is treated as research and development expenditure in our accounts. JET is a European facility, which we host at Culham.

The original build cost of MAST is around £10m, it is currently undergoing a £30m upgrade.

The EFDA website states that the construction costs of JET were 198.8m European Units of Account (predecessor to the Euro). We estimate that to build a similar device today would cost in the order of 1 billion euros.

2) When did each of the projects commence?

Construction of JET started in 1978 and it began operating in 1983, with formal opening in April 1984. Construction of MAST started in 1996 and it started operating in late 1999.

3) What has been running costs, including all overheads, staff salaries etc, in total since the projects started to date?

This information has been difficult to obtain. The closest that we can provide is the direct UK funding of fusion research at Culham since 1995, this covers our fusion research and the UK contribution to JET. Funding over the past 19 years (1995/96 to 2013/14 inclusive) is £363m.

In addition, the Authority receives income from the European Commission for operating JET and certain other fusion activities. From 2005/6 to 2012/13 inclusive we have received income from the EU of £428m – this figure has been taken from our Annual report and accounts documents.

4) What is the annual forecast expenditure for the next three years on all projects taking place at the Culham Research Centre, broken down into capital expenditure and running cost?

The estimated total expenditure of the Authority for the next three years is shown below. Note these are planned figures, and are subject to agreement with our sponsor department of Business, Innovation and Skills.

2014/15 – £102.8m plus £12.7m capital

2015/16 – £94.1m plus £5.6m capital

2016/17 – £91.9m plus £5.5m capital

5) *What was the actual total expenditure for 2013 on salaries for staff directly employed at the Culham Research Centre.*

For 2012/13 (1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013) the total expenditure on employees was £27.9m. For 2013/14 expenditure is expected to be approximately £31.3m. Our annual accounts are currently being prepared so this figure is not yet audited.

6) *What was the total expenditure on payments to sub-contractors and sub-contracting companies working at the Culham Research centre.*

Our expenditure on hired staff in 2012/13 was £15.8m. For 2013/14 expenditure is expected to be around £18.5m (see comment on this year's annual accounts above). We do not collect information that would separately identify expenditure on sub-contracting companies.

Additional questions on the number of staff and average salary.

We had an average of 537 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees in 2012/13, with an additional 370 FTE agency supplied workers (contract staff).

The median remuneration of our workforce in 2012/13 is £38,468.

I hope that this provides you with the information that you require. If you have any queries about this response, please contact me.

Your enquiry has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act. If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request please let me know. Our complaints procedure is available on:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-atomic-energy-authority/about/complaints-procedure>

Kind regards,

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