



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

T: 03459 33 55 77 or
08459 33 55 77
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Our ref: RFI 7068
Date: 22 January 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: CHRISTMAS SPEND

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 24 November 2014, about how much money has been spent on Christmas decorations, parties and cards broken down by year for 2012, 2013 and 2014. You also asked for specific details of the purchases (trees, tinsel etc). We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Defra does not budget for specific Christmas related spends, however, below is a table which gives what information we hold where it has been specifically recorded. Information regarding Christmas spend for the year 2014 was not held by Defra at the time your request was received. We do not hold specific details beyond those included in the table.

| | 2012 | 2013 |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Item | | |
| Christmas cards* | £17.45 | |
| Christmas trees** | £1,780.00 | |
| Secretary of State Christmas stakeholder reception*** | £1,378.44 | £2,284.32 |
| Total | £3,175.89 | £2,284.32 |

*Defra holds no record of expenditure on Christmas cards by the Department in 2013

**Defra holds no record of expenditure on Christmas trees in 2013 onwards; the Christmas trees which were purchased in 2012 were synthetic. The total cost spent on trees can be broken down as below:



| | | |
|-------|--|---------|
| DEFRA | TRADITIONAL GOLD CHRISTMAS TREE - 10FT | £450.00 |
| DEFRA | TRADITIONAL RED CHRISTMAS TREE - 7FT | £215.00 |
| DEFRA | TRADITIONAL GOLD CHRISTMAS TREE - 10FT | £450.00 |
| DEFRA | TRADITIONAL GOLD CHRISTMAS TREE - 7FT | £215.00 |
| DEFRA | TRADITIONAL GOLD CHRISTMAS TREE - 10FT | £450.00 |

***These events were hosted by the Secretary of State together with other Defra Ministers for key stakeholders. These were senior representatives from the organisations who work closely with the department to help develop and deliver policy.

Defra has responded to one previous FOIA request regarding this matter. Please see below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/264427/RFI_6025_Redacted.pdf.


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 the address below.

Yours sincerely,


Defra FOIA and EIRs Team
InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk

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 [REDACTED] 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