



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Our ref: RFI 6835
Date: 03 October 2014

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Salaries over £100K in the 2012/13 year

Thank you for your request for information about salaries over £100K, as well as details of the expenses for all those earning over £150K, which we received on 18 August 2014. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked for the total number of employees who received remuneration equal to, or in excess of £100,000 in 2013-14. Remuneration includes, but is not limited to: salary, fees, allowances, bonuses, benefits in kind, compensation for loss of office and employers' pension contributions.

For those who received remuneration in excess of £150,000, you asked for the employee's name, the employee's job title, the remuneration received by the employee, as well as an itemised list of expenses claims made by the employee.

Following careful consideration, we have decided not to disclose some of this information.

The information which can be disclosed is, as follows:

Using your definition of remuneration, as at 31 March 2014, there were 38 staff in core Defra with remuneration above £100,000. Employer's pension's contributions have a significant impact on the numbers in this group, as during 2013-14, these contributions ranged from 21.8% to 24.3%.

The remainder of the information requested is being withheld as it falls under the exemption in section 22 of the FOIA, which relates to information that will be published at a later date.



This exemption requires the public authority in question to carry out a public interest test. Defra has the view that a release of actual or estimated data prior to publication would lead to inaccurate conclusions being reached. This in turn could confuse or mislead anyone who views them which is counter to the principles of freedom of information. In light of this, Defra has concluded that, at this stage, when the information is still incomplete, the public interest in withholding the information sought outweighs the public interest in its disclosure. Therefore, we have concluded that in all the circumstances of the case, the information should be withheld because it is not complete and will be published at a later date.

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.

We acknowledge that we missed the relevant deadline for response to your request, for which I apologise. It is not our usual practice to take longer than the time allowed for response in the relevant legislation and I am sorry that on this occasion we have not been able to meet our usual standards. We are currently experiencing a high number of EIRs/FOIA requests making it difficult to respond within the deadlines. The Department is taking action to address this issue. It has unfortunately taken some time for us to give proper consideration to your request.

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
Email informationrequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Annex A

Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

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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 Mike Kaye, 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