



**Redacted**  
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14 October 2015

Our ref: FOI2015/19820

Dear **Redacted**

**Re: Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email of 17 September in which you narrowed down your request to the year 2014 only for the following:

*"I write with a request for details of the number and cost of flights inside the UK taken by DECC ministers, special advisers and most senior civil servants in the department. Under the Freedom of Information Act, please provide me with the following details:*

- 1) The dates and destinations of all internal flights taken by DECC ministers, special advisers and senior civil servants in the department.*
- 2) The cost of the internal flights taken.*
- 3) What class of flight was each? (eg. economy, economy plus, business or first class)*

*By senior DECC staff, I mean the permanent secretary, the acting or permanent Director General, Directors and Deputy Directors and members of staff working in the ministers' private offices. The time range I am interested in the calendar year for 2013 and 2014. I have already narrowed this request. And if my request is denied in whole, or in part, I request that you justify the reasons why, citing specific exemptions of the act. As I stated before but you ignored I ask that if there is an issue of cost or staff time (unlikely given the narrow scope of the request) then please provide me with just the information for the year 2014.*

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).



Department  
of Energy &  
Climate Change

Please find attached details of dates, destinations and costs of internal flights taken by DECC ministers only during 2014. The majority of domestic travel is by train. From time to time, Ministers take domestic flights where this is required by departmental business. All travel is taken in accordance with the Ministerial Code: <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/ministerial-code-may-2010.pdf>

Details of all expenses incurred, including travel, by the Permanent Secretary and Directors General are published on the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website at the following link:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=department-of-energy-climate-change&publication\\_type=transparency-data](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=department-of-energy-climate-change&publication_type=transparency-data)

Concerning the parts of your request which asked for details of special advisers, directors, deputy directors, staff working in ministerial private offices and the class of flights taken, we cannot provide this information because the effort to administer that part of your request would exceed the limit prescribed in Regulations made pursuant to Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This limit is £600 and which represents the estimated cost of spending 3.5 working days: (i) determining whether the Department holds the information, and (ii) locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with the information on the scale that you have requested would require a search of all the records, computer drives and email accounts of ministerial and special advisers' private offices, directors, deputy directors and support staff. We estimate that the amount of work required would take us over the limit referred to above.

The Act provides that we are not obliged to comply with requests where the estimated cost of complying would exceed this limit. Therefore, those parts of your request will not be processed further at this time.

### **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:

Information Rights Unit (DECC Shared Service)  
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET  
Email: [foi@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foi@decc.gsi.gov.uk)



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

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Private Office Group  
DECC