



Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: DAYS SPENT BY MINISTERS IN CENTRAL LONDON DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 26 January 2015, about days spent by Defra Ministers in their central London departmental offices during the following dates: w/c 8 December 2014; w/c 15 December 2014; w/c 12 January 2015 and w/c 19 January 2015.

We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and have provided some context which we hope that you will find helpful.

Please see below for a table showing the number of days that each Minister was in the Defra central office over the requested period. Ministers, as MPs, often work in their constituencies on Fridays to serve their constituents. The House of Commons rose for Christmas Recess on Thursday 18 December. Ministers often have meetings about departmental business outside of the department; these have been indicated below for your information. This is especially true for Defra Ministers given our responsibilities to support rural communities.


DAYS IN CENTRAL LONDON DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES		
Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP	George Eustice MP	Dan Rogerson MP
W/C 8/12/2014		
4	4	4 (+1 day away from the office on departmental business)
W/C 15/12/2014		
4	2 (+2 days away from the office on departmental business)	3 (+1 day away from the office on departmental business)
W/C 12/1/2015		
Week long departmental trade visit to China*	5	4
W/C 19/1/2015		
3	3	4

* The main purpose of the visit was developing our relationship with China on food and drink, agriculture, research and development and animal health; this has the potential to unlock more than £800 million in trade for UK business over five years and support more jobs across the country.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and 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