



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

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Our ref: RFI 7423
Date: 2 June 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: HOSPITALITY REGISTER

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 8 April 2015, about the hospitality register. As you know we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked for a copy of the gifts and hospitality register (i.e. acceptance of meals, drinks provided by external organisations at events) covering the last year for civil servants in the following grades:

Grade 6

Grade 7

Senior Executive Officer

Higher Executive Officer

Executive Officer

Administrative Officer

Administrative Assistant

Under the Civil Service Management Code (CSMC), civil servants must not receive gifts, hospitality or benefits of any kind from a third party which might be seen to compromise their personal judgement or integrity. This does not interfere with the ability to offer or accept gifts and hospitality in appropriate circumstances. Defra employees are required to record all gifts and hospitality valued over £20. This record is audited to ensure that the CSMC is being upheld.

For gifts and hospitality accepted the following information refers to the 12 month period 7 April 2014 – 8 April 2015 and this is presented in the table on the following page.



GRADE	NATURE OF GIFT/ HOSPITALITY ACCEPTED	DATE	DONATED BY
HEO & Grade 6	Lunch in London to continue work discussions over lunch with the Capita Property Management Team	01/05/2014	Capita Property Management
Grade 7 & HEO	Dinner - Invitation to attend the English & Welsh Wines of the Year competition Awards ceremony at Vintners Hall.	22/07/2014	UKVA (United Kingdom Vineyards Association)
SEO	Working dinner offered by Water UK to discuss water and pharmaceuticals in wastewater, on evening preceding a Commission workshop on this issue. Invited to give government perspective to water and pharmaceuticals industry representatives.	01/08/2014	Water UK
Grade 7	Travel and accommodation to attend and speak at the EPIC AGM including the course dinner on the evening of 1 st September.	12/08/2014	EPIC Consortium
Grade 7	Invitation to Annual luncheon (500 attendees)	01/10/2014	Environmental Services Association
Grade 7	Drinks	20/11/2014	Green Alliance
EO	Molton Brown Body Wash & Body Lotion - Thank you gift for attending Personal Assistants event on the 28 th & 29 th of November. For PA's from different Water organisations to meet and to network.	28/11/2014	Water UK
Various	Food Stars Event was held at Defra by 50 Food Stars, a number of gifts were presented to staff which were surplus after the event.	26/02/2015	Various Food Stars
Grade 6	Bottle of Whisky	26/02/2015	Brassica & Leafy Salads Associations
Grade 7	Champagne - A "small token of appreciation" for giving presentation at Rethinking Re-use conference in December 2014	20/03/2015	Dentons (law firm which organised the conference)

The register includes the name of recipients of gifts and hospitality. However, Section 40(2) of the FOIA provides that personal data relating to other persons is exempt information if disclosure would breach the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA). Defra

considers that the names of the individuals identified in the requested information are those individuals' personal data.

For the employee below SCS, they are not in the public facing role or in a senior position and would not reasonably expect their name to be disclosed in relation to this report. Therefore, we believe that disclosure of this information (i.e. the individuals' name) is likely to breach the first data protection principle in Schedule 1 to the DPA, which relates to the fair and lawful processing of personal data, as disclosure would not constitute 'fair' processing of the personal data. Therefore, we have concluded that this information is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) read in conjunction with section 40(3)(a)(i) of the FOIA.

Information disclosed in response to this FOIA request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk), together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

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,

██████████

Information Rights 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 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: InformationRequests@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 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