



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](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

**Our ref:** RFI 7183  
**Date:** 16 February 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Christmas Cards**

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 19 January 2015. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

We do not hold any information that answers the following questions:

- How many Christmas cards were issued on behalf of Civil Servants?;
- What was the cost of printing Christmas cards from Civil servants?;
- What was the cost of posting Christmas cards from Civil Servants?;
- Can I please have a copy of the artwork used on Christmas cards from Civil Servants?;
- Can I please have a copy of the mailing list used for sending Christmas cards from Civil Servants - including who from and to?;
- What was the cost of printing Christmas cards from Ministers?; and
- Can I please have a copy of the artwork used on Christmas cards from Ministers?

Regarding your remaining questions, we hold the following:

**How many Christmas cards were issued on behalf of Ministers?**

The Departmental information that we hold shows that Ministers sent 140 Christmas cards in total. We do not hold any information about any cards they sent in a personal or political capacity. Therefore these lists are not comprehensive.

**What was the cost of posting Christmas cards from Ministers?**

The cost for posting those 140 cards was £86.00.

**Can I please have a copy of the mailing list used for sending Christmas cards from Ministers - including who from and to?**

The cards were sent to the organisations listed in Annex C. The addresses have not been included as that information is reasonably accessible to you via the internet and is therefore exempt from disclosure under section 21 FOIA.




11 cards were sent to individuals but we have decided that the information should be withheld under sections 40(2) and (3)(a)(i) (personal data relating to persons other than the requester) of the FOIA. Sections 40(2) and (3)(a)(i) of the FOIA provide that personal data relating to other persons is exempt information if disclosure would breach the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).

We consider that disclosure of this information 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, in two ways. First, disclosure would not constitute fair processing of the personal data, second, disclosure would not satisfy any of the conditions for data processing set out in Schedule 2 to the DPA. Therefore, we have concluded that this information is exempt from disclosure under sections 40(2) and (3)(a)(i) of the FOIA.

I attach Annex A that 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](mailto: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 or logos) 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.

Most documents produced by Defra will be protected by Crown Copyright. Most Crown copyright information can be re-used under the [Open Government Licence](#). For information about the OGL and about re-using Crown Copyright information please see [The National Archives website](#).

Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the [Intellectual Property Offices website](#).

---

## 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](mailto:requestforinfo@defra.gsi.gov.uk)) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defras 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 Defras own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

## Annex C

**Secretary of State:** Association of British Insurers, Aldersgate Group, Angling Trust, BASC, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, BRC, BVA, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Canal & River Trust, CBI London, CEFAS, Country Land & Business Association Limited, Countryside Alliance, Environmental Audit Committee, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee, Environment Agency, FDF Food and Drink Federation, Federation of Small Businesses, Food & Environment Research Agency, Forestry Commission, Green Alliance, Institute of Grocery Distribution & Food Chain Centre, JNCC, LGA, Marine Management Organisation, National Trust, Natural England, NFU, AHDB, OFWAT, Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, Royal Society, RPA, RSPB, VMD, Water UK, Wildlife and Countryside Link, Woodland Trust, The Wildlife Trusts, WWF UK, Associated British Foods plc, Diageo plc, Nestle UK Ltd, Mondelez Europe, Unilever Plc, Mark H Durkan MLA, Michelle O'Neill MLA, Aileen McLeod MSP, Carl Sargeant.

**Minister Eustice:** all 27 EU Agriculture Ministers and the Commission's two Agriculture and Fisheries Commissioners (cards jointly signed with the Secretary of State), NFFO, SFF, NFU, NFUS, TFA, CLA, Michelle O'Neill MLA, Carl Sargeant, Richard Lochhead MSP.

**Lord de Mauley:** Environmental Industries Commission (EIC), Friends of the Earth, The Technology Strategy Board (TSB) Innovate UK, Waste Resources & Action Programme (WRAP), British Horse Society, The Monkey Sanctuary, Kew, London First, Dogs Trust, British Horseracing Authority, World Horse Welfare, Horse Trust, WWF, The Tusk Trust, BVA, CLA, Countryside Alliance, FC, JNCC, NFU, National Federation of Women's Institutes, Tree Council, East Malling Trust, Natural England, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, Thames Tideway Tunnel, Thames Water, Greyhound Board of Great Britain, RSPB, National Association of AONBs, The Prince's Charities International Sustainability Unit.

**Minister Rogerson:** no data held.