



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

Our ref: RFI 7532

1 June 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: SICKNESS ABSENCE

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 1 May 2015, about sickness absence in Defra. As you know, we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

In your email of 1 May 2015, you included requests for information about other staffing matters that involve a different category of information to sickness absence information, to which I replied earlier today. Therefore, this letter is a response only in respect of your request for sickness absence information.

You requested information comprising the number of working days lost to sickness absence in the department in every one of the five financial years since 2010/11, with a breakdown by occupational grade. The information that you have requested is set out in the following table:

Grade	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
AA	600.89	198.74	101.13	133.46	114.03
AO	2927.74	1944.11	2058.48	1201.79	794.29
EO	3480.07	1645.29	1873.46	1502.03	1372.62
HEO	2948.72	2415.89	2738.66	1884.89	1700.14
SEO	1142.93	925.26	904.39	725.78	734.36
Grade 7	1789.94	929.90	836.64	852.06	598.56
Grade 6	451.29	457.23	226.64	75.57	301.13
SCS	185.40	48.86	137.50	45.46	100.18
Unknown ¹	0.00	239.69	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	13526.98	8804.97	8876.90	6421.04	5715.31

¹ These absences relate to staff who transferred to Defra from the Regional Development Agencies on 1 July 2011 and whose grades were not assessed until after the 2011-12 financial year.



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 me.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.


Defra FOIA and EIRs Team
Area 4C, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR
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: 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 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