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Our ref: FOI2019/01872
22 February 2019

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Extra full-time Equivalent Staff to Work on Brexit

Thank you for your request for information of 28th January about Extra full-time equivalent staff to work on Brexit. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

- 1. How many extra full-time equivalent staff have been employed by this department to work on Brexit? Out of that number how many are working on no-deal Brexit?*
- 2. How many full-time equivalent staff have been brought in from other government departments/agencies to this department to work on Brexit? Out of that number how many are working on no-deal Brexit?*

Please note, we are only able to provide actual figures rather than full-time equivalents (FTE). Over 80% of Defra's agenda is affected by the UK's departure from the European Union and as a result many roles across the Defra group are now supporting EU exit-related work, either directly or indirectly.

As at the 31 December 2018, the Defra group has recruited over 2,700 staff including fixed term appointments, interims and staff redeployed from elsewhere in the group. Over 2,400 are already in post with the remainder working through pre-employment processes.

Of the additional new recruits approximately 320 of these people have been recruited from Government departments and agencies outside of Defra group.

It is not possible for us to identify whether individuals are working specifically on no deal preparations or broader EU Exit preparations as many projects will cover both outcomes. As such, the information is not held by Defra.

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, 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.



We attach Annex A, explaining the copyright that applies to the information being released to you, and 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

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 or under regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to _____, Head of Information Rights, Area 4a, 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's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

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