



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Nobel House
Area 4a
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

T: 03459 33 55 77
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

[Redacted]

By email: [Redacted]

Our ref: FOI2019/02380
25 February 2019

Dear [Redacted]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Brexit

Thank you for your request for information of 1 February 2019 about EU Exit. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below.

I would like to know how much money your department has spent on any and all external consultants working in relation to Britain's exit from the European Union, for each of the years 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, we have established that the information requested here is not held by Defra. The finance systems in Defra deal with contract values and spend by supplier. Contract spend is categorised, and so we can gather information on, for example, consultancy spend. However, we do not record whether consultancy spend listed is related to EU Exit and suppliers often have multiple contracts with Defra including wider remits than EU Exit consultancy.

Under our duty to advise and assist we note that Defra, along with other Departments, records all contracts over £10,000 on a publically available online system called Contracts Finder - please see <https://www.gov.uk/contracts-finder>.

I would like to know the provisions in your budget for preparation for Britain's exit from the European Union for each of the years 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. In addition, I would like to know what provisions you have made in your budget for no-deal contingency planning for each of the years 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019.

In 2016/17 Defra made no adjustments to its budget for EU Exit preparations.

For the remaining years, HM Treasury has allocated over £4.2 billion of additional funding to departments and the Devolved Administrations to support ongoing EU exit preparations in all scenarios so far.

This breaks down as:



- £412m of additional funding over the spending review period for the Department for Exiting the European Union, Department for International Trade and the Foreign & Commonwealth Office at Autumn Statement 2016.
- £286m of additional funding for 17/18 (a full breakdown of which can be found in Supplementary Estimates 17/18, including Defra's:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/679738/PU2137_Supplementary_estimates_web.pdf.)

- Over £1.5bn of additional funding for 18/19. A full breakdown, including Defra's, of the allocations can be found in the Chief Secretary's Written Ministerial Statement, HCWS540, laid on the 13 March here:

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-03-13/HCWS540/>

- Over £2bn of additional funding for 19/20. A full breakdown, including Defra's, of the allocations can be found in the Chief Secretary's Written Ministerial Statement, HCWS1205, laid on the 18 December here:

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-12-18/HCWS1205/>

Of the £1.5bn funding for 2018/19, Defra was allocated £310m with a further £10m being repurposed from existing budgets. The details of this allocation were not included in the 2018/19 Main Estimate but will be confirmed in the Supplementary Estimates, which is normally published by February each year.

Of the £2bn funding for 2019/20, Defra was allocated £410m. In keeping with all additional funding to date, this additional funding will support ongoing preparations in all scenarios with a further process expected to draw upon additional funds in 2019/20 to manage emerging no deal risks if and when they materialise.

As the information is reasonably accessible to you by other means, section 21 of the FOIA exempts Defra from providing a copy of the information with this response to your request.

We do not hold separate records for provisions on preparations under a 'no-deal' scenario and therefore the information is not held.

We attach Annex B should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

Information Rights Team

InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Annex

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 Nick Teall, 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