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5 March 2019

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Brexit staff redeployments

Thank you for your request for information of 5 February 2019 about Brexit staff redeployments. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your questions are set out in bold below, with our response immediately afterwards.

1. How many staff in your department are working wholly or predominantly on Brexit preparations?

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.

It is not possible for us to identify whether individuals are working specifically on broader EU Exit preparations as many projects will cover both outcomes. As such, the information is not held by Defra.

As at 31 December 2018 Defra group has placed over 2700 staff into EU exit roles, including fixed term appointments, interims and staff redeployed from elsewhere in the group. Over 2400 are already in post with the remainder working through pre-employment processes.

2. How many staff have been redeployed from other roles to work wholly or predominantly on Brexit preparations?

A specific re-prioritisation exercise was undertaken across the department in September 2018. Through this approximately 190 Defra group staff moved temporarily into EU exit posts.

3. How many staff have been seconded from other departments or non-ministerial departments to work wholly or predominantly on Brexit preparations? And could you please specify how many have been taken and from which Departments (or non-ministerial departments)



Your question asks how many people have been seconded from other Departments or non-ministerial departments. We are taking this to mean staff from other government departments who have applied to take on a role in Defra to support EU exit, so have answered in this way. Of the additional new recruits approximately 320 have moved from other government departments through a number of means including recruitment, temporary moves and formalised loans. It is not possible to specify exactly which departments colleagues been loaned from.

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.

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 the address below.

Yours sincerely

Information Rights Team
InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Annex A

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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 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