



Redacted  
By email Redacted

Our ref: FOI2021/21314  
16 September 2021

Dear Redacted

### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Sick Days

Thank you for your request for information of 20 August 2021 about sick days. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

*Could you please tell me how many sick days civil servants in your department have taken each month per month since March 2020?*

We can confirm that this information is held by Defra and is provided in the table below.

Month	Number of sick days in month
March 20	1734
April 20	1290
May 20	990
June 20	1179
July 20	1186
August 20	837
September 20	1036
October 20	1149
November 20	1347
December 20	1234
January 21	1241
February 21	1118
March 21	1116
April 21	1173
May 21	1085
June 21	934

The above data is based on working days lost including COVID-19 related absence and in line with Cabinet Office reporting guidelines.

Please also see the following link which provides total staff numbers for the period requested:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/defra-workforce-management-information>

Information disclosed in response to this 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 me.

Yours sincerely

Redacted

**Information Rights Team**

[InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk](mailto:InformationRequests@defra.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 Andrew Mobsby, Head of Information Rights via email at [InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk](mailto:InformationRequests@defra.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 using the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/>