



Rural Payments Agency

26 January 2023
Our ref: RFI 6435

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information Act - Information Request

We refer to your request for information dated 20th December which we have dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA).

You have asked:

1. How many staff (as measured by full-time equivalents) do you employ to work on communications? Please include all internal and external communications including work on your website, media queries and social media.
2. What was your communication spending for the financial year 2021/22 and what is the budget for the current communications spending in the current financial year?

We can confirm that there are currently 18.89 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff employed on communications related functions with the Rural Payments Agency (RPA). This includes external affairs; social media; operational advice and guidance published on GOV.UK.

Internal communication staff and press office work across the Defra Group and are all employed by Defra. Therefore, the number of FTE for these functions is not held by RPA.

In the financial year 2021/22, the communication spend was £1.5m. In the current financial year, 2022/23, the budget for the current communications spending is £1.6m. These figures consist of the spend on social media monitoring and hard copy correspondence with RPA customers. They do not include the cost of staff employed by RPA to undertake these activities.

What you need to do

If you are not happy with the way we have handled your request, you can ask for an internal review. These requests should be submitted in writing within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original request. You should email your request for a review to IRT@rpa.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have 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 RPA's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: [Information Commissioner's Office](#), Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

If you need further information

If you have any questions about this email, you can contact us by email irt@rpa.gov.uk.

You can find more information on how we handle personal data in our [Personal Information Charter](#) and [RPA Customer Privacy notices](#) on [GOV.UK](#)

Yours sincerely

Information Rights Team

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