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[Redacted]

By email: [Redacted]

Our ref: FOI2024/06205  
27 March 2024

Dear [Redacted]

### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Staff and Pay

Thank you for your request for information of 16 March 2024 about staff and pay. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

1) *Name of department or organisation*

Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

2) *Did your organisation pay the Civil Service £1,500 Cost of Living payment to staff ?  
(If No, you are not required to complete question 3)*

We can confirm that Defra paid the Civil Service £1,500 cost of living payment to staff.

3) *Number of Non-Senior Civil Service graded staff (permanent or fixed-term employees, but not contractors or agency workers) who were:*

a) *in post from 31 March 2023 and to 31 July 2023*

We can confirm that 6,158 staff in Core Defra met the eligibility requirements based on dates of service and received the £1,500 payment.

b) *on long-term unpaid sickness absence as at 31 March 2023 to 31 July 2023 and **did** receive the £1,500 Cost of Living payment*

Sickness absence did not break eligibility for the £1,500 payment for staff in Defra, provided the other eligibility criteria were met. We can confirm that 9 staff received the £1500 payment who were on long-term sickness absence (defined as more than three months as at the 31 March 2023).

c) *on long-term unpaid sickness absence as at 31 March 2023 to 31 July 2023 and **did not** receive the £1,500 cost of living payment*

This information is not held, there were no staff on long term unpaid sickness absence as at 31 March 2023 to 31 July 2023 who did not receive the £1,500 cost of living payment,

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 me.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

**Information Rights Team**

[InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk](mailto:InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk)

## Annex A

### Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

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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 [Redacted], 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/>