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By email: [Redacted]

Our ref: FOI2025/24724
2 December 2025

Dear [Redacted],

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Staff numbers in the HR Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Team

Thank you for your request for information of 18 November 2025 about staff numbers in the HR Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Team. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information requests and our response are set out below.

Initial request received on 17 November:

How many staff in DEFRA have job titles that includes at least one of the words (a) equality, (b) diversity, (c) inclusion, (d) gender, (e) LGBT or (f) race?

I note that this information was previously provided by your department in response to a Written Parliamentary Question (UIN 15739, answered 6 March 2024).

Follow-up request received on 18 November:

Thank you for your response to FOI2025/24711.

Based on this, I would like to refine the FOI request to the following:

How many staff are there in the HR Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Team?

As you note, this aligns with the answer of the referenced Written Parliamentary Question (UIN 15739, answered on 6 March 2024).

There are 6 employees on payroll in the HR Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Team as of 30 November 2025.

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,

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 us.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

Information Rights Team

InformationRequests@defra.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 ^[Redacted] Head of Information Rights via email at InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk and they 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/>