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[REDACTED]
By email: [\[REDACTED\]](#)

Our ref: FOI2026/12031
10 June 2026

Dear [REDACTED],

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Recruitment and Agency Spend 2025/26

Thank you for your request for information of 1 June 2026 about recruitment and agency spend 2025/26. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

Please provide the total amount spent by your organisation on recruitment and agency-related staffing costs during the 2025/26 financial year.

For the avoidance of doubt, this should include, where applicable:

- *Recruitment agency spend*
- *Temporary agency staff*
- *Interim staff sourced through third parties*
- *Contractor costs where sourced through third parties*
- *Managed service provider (MSP) arrangements*
- *Recruitment process outsourcing (RPO) arrangements*
- *Any associated recruitment agency fees or commissions*

This request is for a single combined aggregated total figure only.

For the 2025/26 financial year, Defra spent £24,331,171.22 including VAT on recruitment and agency-related staff costs. This amount covers internal and external recruitment activity and services we received from the Government Recruitment Service and recruitment agencies.

Information disclosed in response to this EIRs request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIRs 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

Information Rights Team

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 Vanessa Drury 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/>

