



Department  
of Energy &  
Climate Change

Via email address:

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Our ref: 13/0518

15/05/2013

Dear,

**RE: Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email of 19 April 2013 where you requested the following information:

1. How many freedom of information requests has the department received in each of the years since the Freedom of Information Act came into force?
2. In each of those years, how many of those requests were overdue?
3. In each of those years, how many members of staff have worked for the FOI team.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

I can confirm that some of the information you requested is held by this Department.

**Items 1. and 2.**

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) does hold information relevant to these questions. However, under section 21 of the FOI Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. You can find the information you have requested up until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 on the Ministry of Justice's (MOJ) website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/government-foi-statistics>.

The statistics from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 will be published in the future at the same address given above. This information is therefore exempt under section 22 (the information is intended for future publication). Section 22 is a qualified exemption and we have therefore considered the public interest test. There is a public interest in knowing the details of FOI requests as this leads to greater transparency in government. However, given the necessary preparation and administration involved in publishing the information, we consider that, the best use of public resources would be directed to pulling this information together, ensuring the information is accurate and published in a consistent and comprehensive format, rather than in a piecemeal fashion. Having considered the public interest, the department's decision is to withhold the requested information.

**Item 3.**

DECC does not maintain a dedicated FOI team, instead the administration of requests received under both Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations, is conducted by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) on its behalf. The notional FTE at BIS responsible for carrying out these functions on behalf of DECC is currently 3.3 persons. BIS does not hold historical data in this connection so we are unable to provide this.

**Appeals procedure**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to me at the address above.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

DECC Knowledge & Information Management team