



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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**Your ref:**  
**Our ref:** RFI 6099  
**Date:** 20 December 2013

Dear,

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: DEFRA AND PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYEES**

Thank you for your request for information about secondments from the private sector to Defra, which we received on 5 December 2013. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

*“My query concerns the below written answer. Could you give me a more information on what each secondee was working on with regards to the impact on business of government policy?”*

*In addition, as Mr Rogerson's answer is slightly unclear, could you tell me how many private sector secondees have enrolled at Defra since May 2010?*

*Which companies did each secondee come from? And which areas of Government legislation/regulation/guidance did each secondee work on?*

*Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many private sector employees have been seconded by the private sector to his Department; what the name was of the company from which they were seconded; and whether any of those employees have worked on drafting legislation. [175651]*

*Dan Rogerson: As at 31 October 2013, three private sector employees were seconded into core DEFRA. They were seconded from the following organisations:*

*Carbon Disclosure Project (a registered charity);*

*Thames Water; and*

*Veolia Environmental Services.*

*All three were involved in work on the impact on business of government policy, including matters which are the subject of legislation, regulations and guidance.”*



In response to your first query, further information on what each secondee worked on during their inward secondment to core Defra is as follows:

- **Carbon Disclosure Project.** Seconded to the Climate Change team. The role involved very limited involvement in drafting legislation but did include extensive work on a supporting guidance document.
- **Thames Water.** Seconded to the Water Reform team. The role primarily focused on work to prepare for implementation of the Water Bill, working with Government, regulators and companies across the sector. Some feedback from this work was used in the finalisation of the Water Bill to ensure its operational deliverability.
- **Veolia Environmental Services** (a waste management company). Seconded to the Strategy Portfolio team. The role did not include drafting legislation, but involved working on the Smarter Environmental Regulation Review (otherwise known as Smarter Guidance and Data) which aims to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses by making it easier, quicker and clearer to understand what environmental rules apply and simpler to report essential environmental and farming information.

Regarding your second query, below is a table detailing the 16 staff who were on inward secondment to core Defra from the private sector since 31 May 2010. During this same period, there were no secondees within the scope of the request that worked in any of Defra's Executive Agencies.

Ref	Job Title	Department worked in	Seconded from
1	Sustainable Living	Sustainable Behaviours Unit	National Trust
2	Policy Advisor	Adapting to Climate Change	Transport Research Laboratory
3	Head of Project Development	Waste Infrastructure Delivery Programme	RPS Group
4	Senior Adviser	Waste Infrastructure Delivery Programme	RPS Group
5	Policy Adviser	Local Environmental Quality - Water, Floods, Environmental Risk and Regulation	ENCAMS (Keep Britain Tidy)
6	Policy Adviser on the Natural Environment White Paper	Natural Environment Strategy Unit	Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust
7	Policy Adviser	Rural Development, Sustainable Communities and Crops	The Prince of Wales' Office
8	Inspector	Operations Team, Drinking Water Inspectorate	Anglian Water
9	Inspector	Operations Team, Drinking Water Inspectorate	Anglian Water
10	Strategy Advisor	Strategy Unit, Strategic Directorate	Institute for Government
11	Not known	Better Regulation Team	Veolia

12	Policy Advisor - Waste Prevention	Waste Prevention Team, Waste Strategy and Management	Resource Futures
13	Policy Official on Discards	CFP Management & Discards, Marine Programme	Revill Nation
14	Policy Adviser	Sustainable Business and Environmental Reporting, Green Economy	Carbon Disclosure Project
15	Market reform implementation	Water Availability and Quality Programme/Water Reform	Thames Water
16	Smarter Environmental Regulation Review officer	Strategy and Private Office	Veolia

Defra does not hold data regarding which areas of Government legislation/regulation/guidance former secondees worked on, and some may not have done so at all during the period of their secondment.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

I attach Annex A, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you.

I also attach 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,

Ann Tarran

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## **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 18 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Mike Kaye, Head of Information Standards, Area 4D, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: [requestforinfo@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:requestforinfo@defra.gsi.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 for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF