



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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08459 33 55 77
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Our ref: RFI 7259

Date: 10 March 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: HOSPITALITY REGISTER

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 10 February 2015 about the hospitality register. As you know, we have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked for a copy of the hospitality register (i.e. acceptance of meals, drinks provided by external organisations at events) for the Environment and Rural Group in Defra including the name of the official receiving the hospitality, the date on which it took place, the nature of the hospitality, the name of the organisation giving the hospitality and the purpose of the hospitality, for the period from 1 January 2011.

Under the Civil Service Management Code (CSMC), civil servants must not receive gifts, hospitality or benefits of any kind from a third party which might be seen to compromise their personal judgement or integrity. This does not interfere with the ability to offer or accept gifts and hospitality in appropriate circumstances. Defra employees are required to record all gifts and hospitality valued over £20. This record is audited to ensure that the CSMC is being upheld.

The information you requested is set out below.

As the Environment and Rural Group ceased to exist on 31 March 2012, the following information refers to 1 January 2011 – 31 March 2012.

For Directors General and above and Non-Executive Directors of the management board and agency Chief Executives in Defra, the gifts and hospitality register is published quarterly under the Defra transparency data shown at Transparency Data.

- [1 January 2011- 31 March 2011](#)
- [1 April 2011- 30 June 2011](#)
- [1 July 2011- 30 September 2011](#)
- [1 October 2011- 31 December 2011](#)
- [1 January 2012- 31 March 2012.](#)

Defra is therefore exempt from providing the information under section 21 of the FOIA, which relates to information that is reasonably accessible to the requester by other means.



For the gifts and hospitality received by other employees I confirm that Defra does hold the information that you have requested and this is presented in the table below.

NAME	BUSINESS UNIT	NATURE OF GIFT/ HOSPITALITY ACCEPTED	DATE	DONATED BY
Gabrielle Edwards	WLCC	Dinner	08/02/2011	Sancroft
Darius Campbell	Climate Change	Working Dinner with stakeholders	28/11/2011	Climate Change Forum
Name withheld	Biodiversity Programme	Red Wine and Lindt Milk Chocolates	22/12/2011	Ibis Hotel, Temple Quay, Bristol
Darius Campbell	Climate Change	Working Lunch to discuss long term risks to energy sector	21/02/2012	Rothschilds energy investment

Section 40(2) of the FOIA provides that personal data relating to other persons is exempt information if disclosure would breach the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA). Defra considers that the names of the individuals identified in the requested information are those individuals' personal data. However, Senior Civil Servants (SCS) have been named in the information provided because they are in the public domain.

For the employee below SCS, they are not in the public facing role or in a senior position and would not reasonably expect their name to be disclosed in relation to this report. Therefore, we believe that disclosure of this information (i.e. the individuals' name) is likely to breach the first data protection principle in Schedule 1 to the DPA, which relates to the fair and lawful processing of personal data, as disclosure would not constitute 'fair' processing of the personal data. Therefore, we have concluded that this information is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) read in conjunction with section 40(3)(a)(i) of the FOIA.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and the government's Transparency Agenda, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you will now be published on www.gov.uk together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. Please note that this will not include your personal data.

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 the address below.

Yours sincerely,


Information Rights Team
InformationRequests@defra.gsi.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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Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).

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 within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to [REDACTED] Head of Information Standards, Area 4D, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: 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 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