



Scotland Office

Oifis na h-Albainn

1 Melville Crescent
Edinburgh
EH3 7HW



FOI/DB 460

14 September 2012

Dear 

Thank you for your letter dated 10 September 2012 which was received on 12 September.

You asked for the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

- 1/ The total number and the names of departments or services of Government/Civil Service that have been moved from Wales to Scotland since 1997.
- 2/ The total number and the names of departments or services of Government/Civil Service that have been moved from England to Scotland since 1997.

No United Kingdom department of state has been moved from Wales or England to Scotland since 1997.

You may find it helpful to know that in 1999 as part of the devolution settlement established under the Scotland Act 1998 the Scottish Office was abolished. The majority of its functions, assets and liabilities were transferred to the newly created Scottish Executive (now renamed the Scottish Government). The Scottish Government is accountable to the Scottish Parliament, not the UK Parliament. A small number of its functions, assets and liabilities were retained by the UK Government and were and are carried out by the Scotland Office, also created in 1999.

Additionally, but with some minor exceptions, UK departments of state that had previously carried out functions in Scotland continued to do after the creation of the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Executive. These functions are known as reserved functions and are listed in the Scotland Act 1998, schedule 5. (The schedule was subject to some minor amendment by the Scotland Act 2012 and some functions previously reserved were transferred by that Act to the Scottish Parliament.) Thus for instance defence is a reserved function under the Scotland Act 1998 and the Ministry of Defence has continued to operate and provide services in Scotland as the UK department responsible for the defence of the UK. The main UK departments of state exercising functions and operating within Scotland are the Department for Business Innovation and Science, the Department for International Development, the Department for Transport, the Department of Work and Pensions, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, the Home Office, and the Ministry of Defence. The functions that these departments exercise in England, Scotland and Wales are largely

identical (with the exception of the Home Office which is responsible for policing in England and Wales but not in Scotland). The Scotland Office does not hold information about the extent to which these or other UK departments may have moved the administration of their functions within Great Britain since 1997, and I recommend that you might write to the individual departments if you want to know more about their operations.

I hope that you find this information helpful.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made in relation to your request you may ask for an internal review. A request for an internal review should be addressed to:

FOI Officer
1 Melville Crescent
EDINBURGH
EH3 7HW

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 contact details are:

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

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]