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SW1A 2WH

06 November 2008

Dear FOI Requester

**Reference: EIR259222**

This letter relates to your request for information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

In that request you asked following the Prime Minister's comments regarding the amount of food wasted by British Households how much unused food in terms of weight was thrown out by Number 10 in the last 6 months.

The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office Estate. The Cabinet Office does not monitor how much food waste it generates. Where it has been practical to do so, food composting facilities have been installed

Café and meeting room provisions are provided by the in-house FM service provider, Ecovert. The contract covers catering and waste disposal/recycling.



As part of the Total FM contract, the Cabinet Office looked at ways of quantifying food waste but this proved to be expensive and was not cost effective. However, wormeries have been installed at those buildings where there are restaurants and where it has been practical to do so, allowing for some food waste to be composted.

Event catering is provided by Government Hospitality Fund Caterers and a number of external providers.

The catering and hospitality service is provided to the Cabinet Office by EcovertFM who took over the function in April 2008. Food wastage is controlled by ensuring factors such as portion control is managed effectively at point of ordering stock from suppliers to service delivery. The proportionately small amount of food waste incurred at the Cabinet Office is either disposed of with the general waste or is transferred to one of three wormeries on site. Additional methods to recycle or dispose of food waste are currently being explored, for example the introduction of a composter or digester.

There are no separate waste figures available for No.10. The food waste across all the Cabinet Office buildings is recorded by portion and is not converted into tonnage for statistics. Any food waste that is thrown away is included as part of the statistics received for general waste.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Tom Roundell-Greene ([thomas.roundell-greene@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:thomas.roundell-greene@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk)). Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Sue Gray  
Director  
Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AS  
email: [foiteam@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foiteam@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk)

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You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Yours sincerely

**JERRY PAGE**

