

Heather Brooke

By email to: [Request-15303-  
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Our Ref: F0005580  
Your Ref: 15303

Dear Ms Brooke,

26 August 2009

### **Freedom of Information Request F0005580 on communication**

Further to Ivan Pocock's letter to you on 5<sup>th</sup> August, I am writing with regard to your questions 1, 3, 5 and 7 which were allocated to Roger Gill in the Department's Communication Directorate. Roger is now on leave and I am replying on behalf of the Department.

You asked for:

"Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I seek the following information about the Department's staffing and funding for publicity and communications. I would like this information broken down annually for the past three years up to the time this request is answered. The years may be financial or calendar, whichever is convenient, but please keep them consistent.

Specifically, I need:

1. The number of staff (full-time equivalent) working in marketing, external communications and press offices.
2. The number of dedicated Freedom of Information officers (full-time equivalent).
3. Total staffing cost of marketing, external communications and press officers.
4. Total staffing cost of dedicated Freedom of Information staff.
5. Total spending on marketing, external communications and press offices.
6. Total spending on Freedom of Information.
7. If the department produces a newsletter then the name of this publication and all associated costs."

The Department has undertaken a search for the information that you requested. The information for your request has been, and continues to be, gathered from the central Department and its seven executive agencies as listed below:

- Driving Standards Agency (DSA).
- Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA).
- Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA).
- Highways Agency (HA).
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).
- Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA).
- Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA).

The information you request is being compiled from a range of sources across these business units of the Department. External communications activities across the Department are not exclusively carried out by staff or units solely dedicated to this purpose. Staff numbers and costs are not therefore readily available across the Department for external communications activities alone and, regrettably, it has not been possible to complete this task within 20 working days.

Some of the information you have requested is already published and I provide the reference below to avoid delay to you being able to access this information.

Staff FTE employed on press officer activities 2002/3-2007/8 and external communications staff FTE by discipline for October 2006 together with other external communications expenditure information is contained within a previous FOI answer dated 12 December 2008 and published on the national archives website at:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20090303092156/http://www.dft.gov.uk/foi/responses/2008/dec/regionalcomms/>

The Department's full response will repeat the reference above and include all relevant information that it has been possible to compile within the cost threshold of £600.

I hope to be able to provide the Department's full response within the next ten working days.

Yours sincerely,

**Ray George**