



Home Office

Corporate Services,
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

020 7035 4848
(switchboard)

www.gov.uk

Emma Smith

<mailto:request-217468-622f5db8@whatdotheyknow.com>

21 July 2014

Dear Miss Smith,

Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your e-mail of 23 June 2014, in which you ask for details of how much the Home Office funded or contributed towards the cost of a Christmas party for staff in each of the past 10 financial years. Full details of your request can be found at **Annex A**

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Home Office does not hold the information which you have requested. This is because, as the Department's Hospitality policy states, no expense to the Department is involved:

In the run-up to Christmas, please remember, and remind your staff about, the Home Office guidelines on gifts and hospitality. Please also remember that using public funds for a staff Christmas party is inappropriate and should not be confused with the funding of events to reward success.

Staff or Ministers may indeed have held their own Christmas or New Year parties but this would have been at their own expense and not paid for out of the public purse. The Department would not keep a record of this expenditure.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the address below, quoting reference **32087**. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

Information Access Team
Home Office
3rd Floor,

Peel Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

E-mail: info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours Sincerely

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Information Access Team

Annex A

From: Emma Smith [<mailto:request-217468-622f5db8@whatdotheyknow.com>]

Sent: 23 June 2014 00:58

To: FOI Requests

Subject: 06_cross / Freedom of Information request - Christmas Parties

Dear Home Office,

I was wondering if you could tell me if the Home Office funded or made any contribution towards the cost of a christmas party for the staff employed within the Home office in each of the past 10 financial years; If so the amount the Home office provided on an annual basis; The number of staff that were invited to the party; The location and date of each christmas party

Yours faithfully,
Emma Smith