

FAO: Hannah Jewell  
Email: request-937034-34188aee@whatdotheyknow.com

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023  
Our ref: FOI\_5842

**This matter is being dealt with by: Corporate Support Service**

Dear Hannah

**Freedom of Information Act 2000**

**Your Request for Information concerning: Council staff working on climate action**

I refer to your Freedom of Information Request received on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 relating to Council staff working on climate action.

Please see attached the response in relation to the information you were seeking.

I hope this response is satisfactory. If, however, you are dissatisfied with the response to your request for information, you can ask for the decision to be reviewed in reply to this letter, however any request for review must be submitted within 40 days of the date of this freedom of information response.

The review will be removed from the Corporate Support Service and coordinated by the Council's team of Solicitors. A request for review should be directed, by email to [freedom.information@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:freedom.information@sunderland.gov.uk) by post or by hand addressed to the Corporate Support Service, Sunderland City Council, City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland, SR1 3AA, where it will be redirected accordingly.

If this fails to resolve your concerns, then you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

Yours sincerely



Wendy Anderson  
Senior Business and Corporate Support Manager  
[freedom.information@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:freedom.information@sunderland.gov.uk)

*Please note the following information has been provided by HR & OD within Sunderland City Council.*

**1a. How many staff does the Council directly employ (excluding contractors or subcontractors, and excluding teachers), that work directly for the Council as opposed to a school, leisure centres or other venture?**

Sunderland City Council employee headcount as of 19/01/2023 is 2690.

*Please note the following information has been provided by City Development within Sunderland City Council.*

**1b. How many directly employed staff spend 3 or more days per week (0.6 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)) on implementing the Climate Action Plan or other climate change projects? Please provide a list of all the roles. Please exclude waste management staff unless they are specifically working 3 or more days per week on implementing the Climate Action Plan or other climate change projects.**

A total of 9 staff directly employed by the Council currently spend 3 or more days per week on implementing the Council's Low Carbon Action Plan, as set out below:

- Strategic and Sustainable Plans Manager
- International and Engagement Manager
- Principal Sustainable Development Officer
- Principal Energy Efficiency and Retrofit Officer
- Senior Carbon Neutral Officer (x2)
- Carbon Neutral Data and Intelligence Officer
- Carbon Neutral Engagement Officer (x2)

**2. Does the Council have one or more staff member who works on home energy efficiency retrofitting, such as retrofit officers or project managers across the council area, for 3 or more days per week (0.6+ FTE)? This can include both directly employed and contracted staff, provided they work 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE). The work of this officer may include working on any retrofit projects, including council buildings, council homes or private rented or owned households.**

Yes. There is one member of staff working 3 or more days per week on retrofit activity. Details provided below:

- Principal Energy Efficiency and Retrofit Officer

**3. How many planning ecologists (ecologists within the planning department) or equivalent working for 3 or more days per week (0.6+ FTE) does the Council employ to scrutinise planning reports for Biodiversity Net Gain? This can include both directly employed and contracted staff, provided they work 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE).**

The Council has one Principal Ecologist in post who reviews planning reports on Biodiversity Net Gain as part of their role. Please note that the Principal Ecologist is not included in the response to Question 1b.