



Cabinet Office

Room 405
70 Whitehall
London, SW1A 2AS

foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk
www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

RAMZY ALWAKEEL

By email: request-628311-03325d49@whatdotheyknow.com

FOI Reference: FOI329130
21/02/2020

Dear RAMZY ALWAKEEL

I refer to your request where you asked:

"Please can you tell me how many staff, whether full-time or part-time, from your department were seconded at any time between June 23, 2016 and December 12, 2019, to work on preparations for the possibility of a no-deal Brexit, either under the auspices of Operation Yellowhammer or in some other capacity?"

Please provide (1) the number of staff involved and (2) the number of FTE weeks' work this represents.

In addition, please can you let me know the total number of staff working for your department (including anyone who has been seconded as a result of the above or any other reason) as of December 18, 2019?

If staff have not been formally seconded to work on preparations for no-deal Brexit but are nonetheless preparing for it in the course of their existing roles, please let me know how many FTEs your department was either instructed or advised to set aside for this work during the same time frame."

I must inform you that the Cabinet Office is unable to comply with your request. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act relieves public authorities of the duty to comply with a request for information if the cost of dealing with it would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government this is set at £600.

The reason that your request exceeds the cost limit is that data on roles related to exiting the European Union does not go back as far as June 2016, and, where held, is not collated or held in a form that would enable us to easily provide the information you have requested. Attempting to fulfil your request, which could be contained in very many files, would require searching all those files that might contain relevant information to determine whether the Cabinet Office holds any information. This would exceed the appropriate limit laid down in the regulations. If you wish, you may refine your request in order to bring the cost of determining whether the Cabinet Office holds relevant information, locating, retrieving and extracting it, below the appropriate limit.

I can, however, inform you that, at 31st December 2019, 7,432 civil servants were employed in the Cabinet Office.

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:

Eirian Walsh Atkins
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

email: foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. B. Smith', written on a light blue background.

FOI Team
Cabinet Office