



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

MI & Analytics Team  
Department for Energy Security & Net  
Zero  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

foi.requests@energysecurity.gov.uk

Sarah Louise Barbera  
request-1021920-05bd1b8f@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref : FOI2023/19109

14<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Sarah Louise Barbera,

Thank you for your email of 4th September where you requested the following information:

1. In total, how many whole-time equivalent (WTE) 'behavioural scientists' were employed in your Energy Security and Net Zero department as of 31st August 2023?
2. In addition to behavioural scientists, how many WTEs with 'psychologist' in their job titles (for example 'social psychologist', 'behavioural psychologist', 'occupational psychologist') were employed in your Energy Security and Net Zero department as of 31st August 2023?
3. Since the inception of the Energy Security and Net Zero department in February 2023, how much has your department spent on behavioural science/'nudge' activities? Please include the cost of salaries for in-house behavioural scientists/psychologists and also any services commissioned from the Behavioural Insight Team on a sessional basis.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

From our preliminary assessment, we do not believe that we will be able to answer your request without exceeding the cost limit of £600 provided under s12 of the Freedom of Information Act ('the Act'). This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, including locating, retrieving and extracting this. The Act provides that we are not obliged to comply with requests where the estimated cost of complying would exceed this limit.

In this case, administering your request would require a substantial volume of work as neither job descriptions or qualifications are currently recorded or held centrally and 'behavioural scientist' is not a profession the department records.

Further, job titles are not held centrally so we are unable to confirm how many staff are employed with 'psychologist' in their job title.

To answer your FOI would require contacting all staff to gather this information. We consider that doing this would place an unreasonable burden on the Department. Therefore, we will not process your request as currently drafted.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing its scope. Unfortunately, there are limits on what can be done whilst the Machinery of Government (MoG) changes are being enacted, however, we suggest focussing your request to the profession types as found in the Annual Civil Servant Employee Survey (ACSES) as found in the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/civil-service-statistics>

### **Appeals procedure**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original request and should be addressed to the Information Rights Team. It would be helpful if you can tell us why you are dissatisfied with the response to your request so we may address this during the internal review.

Information Rights & Records Unit  
Department for Energy Security & Net Zero  
1 Victoria Street  
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SW1H 0ET  
Email: [FOI.Requests@energysecurity.gov.uk](mailto:FOI.Requests@energysecurity.gov.uk)

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Complaints can be made to the Information Commissioner via their website at: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/>.

Yours sincerely,

MI & Analytics Team