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Our Ref: F0007335

7 March 2011

Dear William

**Freedom of Information Request F0007335 – Transition of IT services from DETR to DTLR and then DfT.**

Your Freedom of Information request of 7 February asked for information about the transition of IT services from DTLR to DfT (and followed one on 3 February asking about the transition of IT services from DETR to DTLR). You made similar requests of The Department for Communities and Local Government (was previously the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. This reply includes such information from DCLG as they have been able to provide. I am aware that DEFRA sent you their response on 4 March.

Our responses to your requested information, as far as we have been able to provide it, are set out below. The Department for the Environment Transport and the Regions (DETR) became the Department for Transport Local Government and the Regions (DTLR) in June 2001 and DTLR then became the Department for Transport (DfT) in November 2002.

*“Any documentation you hold relating to the transition of IT services from (a) DETR and then (b) DTLR to your department (including project plans, briefs etc, and – in particular – strategies”*

We have not been able to find any such documentation due to the passage of time – our record retention period is five years, therefore this information is no longer held. Some corporate recollection however is that:

(a) when the DETR became DTLR in 2001 the DETR's Environment Group transferred to DEFRA but these staff continued to operate from Ashdown House, Victoria until they could move to a DEFRA building. During this time they continued to use the DTLR telephony service.

(b) when the Department for Transport and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister were created in 2002 they both agreed to share common services, including IT, for as long as this made economic and practical sense. The IT service was to be provided by DfT to ODPM and the arrangements were set out in a service level agreement (see copy attached).

*“The number of employees at (a) DETR and (b) DTLR as of its last day in existence”*

(a) The number of employees at DETR as of its last day in existence is not recorded. However the total figures for 2001 are shown on page 20 at:-  
[http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/Assets/CSS01\\_tcm6-1086.PDF](http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/Assets/CSS01_tcm6-1086.PDF)

(b) The number of employees at DTLR as of its last day in existence is not recorded. However the total figures for 2002 are shown on page 22 at:-  
[http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/Assets/CSS02\\_tcm6-1087.PDF](http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/Assets/CSS02_tcm6-1087.PDF)

*“The number of employees at your department as of 1 April 2010”.*

Relevant information as at 31 March 2010 is available on Table 20 at:-  
[http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme\\_labour/civilservice2010tables.xls](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/civilservice2010tables.xls)

*“The sourcing model for (a) DETR (b) DTLR IT (in-house / out-sourced)”*

(a) DETR = in-house                      (b) DTLR = in-house

*“The sourcing model for your IT function (in-house / out-sourced)”*

DfT = in-house                      DCLG = out-sourced

*“The cost to (a) DETR and (b) DTLR for corporate IT services over its last complete financial year of operation”.*

(a) DETR = information no longer held

(b) DTLR = information no longer held

*“The cost to your Department for corporate IT services over the 2009/10 financial year”.*

DfT	DCLG
£9.7m	£11.5m

The above costs relate to the provision of IT services to the central departments, and are not entirely compatible. Neither include line of business systems and the DfT cost for example includes the cost of telephony (which DCLG does not) but it excludes the IT cost of the Shared Service Centre since this serves the whole of the Department and its executive agencies.

*“Was the (a) DETR and (b) DTLR IT Department allocated to one or more successor bodies? If more than one, what was the split of former IT staff between your Department and other successor (a) DETR and (b) DTLR bodies?”*

(a) DETR = no.

(b) DTLR = no

(c) DfT = not from the outset as a joint IT service was provided to DCLG under a service level agreement. ODPM (now DCLG) withdrew from the service from 31 March 2006 and three IT staff transferred to ODPM.

*“The cost of splitting (a) DETR (b) DTLR [and (c) DfT] IT functions”*

(a) DETR = none (service was not split)

(b) DTLR = none (service was not split)

*“Any documentation held regarding the possibility of sharing IT functions between former DETR/DTLR bodies”.*

IT services was shared between former DTLR bodies (DfT and ODPM) from November 2002 and 31 March 2006 following an ODPM decision to withdraw from the shared arrangement and to provide their own IT service.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. The Department will, therefore, be releasing to the public the information you requested, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

If you are unhappy with the way the Department has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the Department's Information Rights Unit at:

Zone D/04  
Ashdown House  
Sedlescombe Road North  
Hastings  
East Sussex TN37 7GA  
E-mail: FOI-Advice-Team-Dxx@xxx.xxx.xxx.xx

Please see attached details of the Department for Transport's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

**Ian Leat**

### **Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner**

You have the right to complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its FOI publication scheme.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

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. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF