

Mr Jinks

Ein cyf/Our ref: ATI-03437a

request-193202-  
8eff0a4d@whatdotheyknow.com

Eich cyf/Your

Dyddiad/Date: 7 January 2014

Dear Mr Clubb ,

I am writing in respect of your recent request for information (ATI 3437) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

You requested NRW to provide you with details of the cost of providing lease cars. Please find below a list of answers to your original questions:

1. *How many cars are leased?*

There are 444 cars in service with NRW that operate under the terms of the Employee Car Schemes (ECS) from the three legacy bodies that formed the new organisation. This information is based on totals for all staff.

2. *How much does this cost NRW ?*

The total cost of operating the ECS schemes is £1.8m per annum. This includes vehicle lease finance costs, fuel reimbursement for business mileage, tyres, repair and maintenance, insurance, provision for accident damage and employer National Insurance contributions.

3. *What is the total and average mileage claimed?*

Using data obtained over the last three years the total mileage incurred by ECS fleet equates to 1.9 million miles per annum with an average of over 4200 miles per ECS user.

4. *How much does this mileage cost?*

Employees from the Environment Agency Wales and Countryside Council for Wales legacy bodies are reimbursed at standard HMRC rates for any business mileage travelled. Forestry Commission Wales legacy employees have a mileage rate of 23p per mile reducing after 10,000 miles as the employee is responsible for damage incurred as well as insuring the vehicle.

5. *What are the additional costs, ie. Insurance, repairs etc.?*

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Correspondence welcomed in Welsh and English

The cost provided in question 2, includes all known associated costs with the operation of the combined ECS schemes. NRW has third party insurance for the EAW and CCW legacy body ECS cars with a premium of £70 per car.

All ECS cars are lease funded and maintenance costs are included.

6. *What are the costs to the individual, contribution and tax benefit?*

Employee contributions differ between the legacy ECS schemes and also take into consideration the duties of the employee and the type of car issued. The average employee contribution is £926 per annum. Employee also paid tax as required by HMRC.

7. *What are the qualifying rules?*

To be eligible for a lease car employees have had to meet at least one of the following criteria, depending on the legacy scheme:

- Be undertaking an operational role that requires frequent and sometimes unplanned travel that cannot reasonably be undertaken using public transport Have responsibility for a field based team, with a need to undertake regular site or field visits.
- Have a significant base of external customers that are not serviced by regular and convenient public transport connections.
- Have a need to regularly carry large or heavy quantities of field service equipment or sensitive documentation.
- Have a requirement to make frequent visits to operational sites that are not adequately serviced by public transport.

We now consider that we have complied with your request. However, if you are dissatisfied with our response you are entitled to pursue this matter through our appeals procedure, a copy of which is below

Yours sincerely,



Donna Muirhead,  
Access to Information Officer

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Wales**

### **Rights of appeal**

If you are not satisfied with our response to your request, you can contact us to ask for our decision to be reviewed, please write to:

Clive Thomas

Head of Governance and Communication

Natural Resources Wales

Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr,

Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 3UR

[clive.thomas@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:clive.thomas@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)

If you are still not satisfied following this, you can make an appeal to the Information Commissioner, who is the statutory regulator for Freedom of Information. The address is:

Office of the Information Commissioner,

Wycliffe House, Water Lane,

Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Tel: 0303 123 113

Fax: 01625 524 510.

E-mail: [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk).

Website: <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>

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