



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
Access to Information Team
Woodham Lane
New Haw
Addlestone
Surrey
KT15 3NB

enquiries@apha.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/apha

Our Ref: ATIC2984

Jackson Bates
{By Email}

22 February 2023

Dear Jackson Bates

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about recruitment, which the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) received on 25 January 2023. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

The information you requested and the response is detailed below:

“Dear Animal and Plant Health Agency,

Please could you provide the following information under the freedom of information act covering the last 12 months, or the most recent 12 month period recorded:

1. Has the organisation used agencies to recruit temporary/contractor staff?
 - 1a. If so please confirm the total agency spend on temporary/contractor staff??
 - 1b. Please provide a breakdown of your answer to question 1a, splitting the spend by job title/specialism
2. Has the organisation used agencies to recruit permanent staff?
 - 2a. If so please confirm the total agency spend on permanent staff?
 - 2b. Please provide a breakdown of your answer to question 2a, splitting the spend by job title/specialism
3. The contact name of the person responsible for dealing with permanent recruitment?
4. The contact name of the person responsible for dealing with temporary/contractor recruitment?”

The information you have requested has been exempted from release citing section 12 of the Freedom of information Act (FOIA)

Section 12

Recruitment of both agency and permanent staff are often carried out at a local level with the choice of advertising or of agency up to individual departments and offices. This also include which individual budget this is paid from.

For APHA to approach each individual department to find out what method of recruitment they use would be a huge task.

The exemption Section 12 (2) is an exemption to release on the grounds of cost.

The Act recognises that Freedom of Information (FOI) requests are not the only demand on the resources of a public authority. They should not be allowed to cause a drain on their time, energy and finances to the extent that they negatively affect their normal public functions.

Currently, the cost limit for complying with a request or a linked series of requests from the same person or group is set at £600 for central government, Parliament and the armed forces and £450 for all other public authorities. You can refuse a request if you estimate that the cost of compliance would exceed this limit. This provision is found at section 12 of the Act.

You can refuse a request if deciding whether you hold the information would mean you exceed the cost limit, for example, because it would require an extensive search in a number of locations. In all likelihood we do hold this information, but cannot provide the information itself under the cost ceiling.

APHA have decided that the request falls under this exemption and are refusing to search for the information requested.

Section 16 (Help and Advice)

The Government Recruitment Service is our 'in-house' recruitment provider for full time staff and more information on what they do can be found here:

[Government Recruitment Service - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

You can search for jobs within the Civil Service here:

[Civil Service job search - Civil Service Jobs - GOV.UK](#)

You can check on awarded or current Agency staff contracts here:

[Search results - Contracts Finder](#)

You can also check staff numbers for each of the central government departments and agencies here:

[Statistical bulletin - Civil Service Statistics: 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/statistical-bulletin-civil-service-statistics-2022)

Information disclosed in response to this FOI request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOI and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on GOV.UK, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

An Annex is attached which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you and contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the Access to Information Team at the email address below or postal address at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM

Email: enquiries@apha.gov.uk

Annex

Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can also be used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

Most documents produced by APHA will be protected by Crown Copyright. Most Crown copyright information can be re-used under the [Open Government Licence](#). For information about the OGL and about re-using Crown Copyright information please see [The National Archives website](#).

Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).

Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request, you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to the Access to Information Manager at the address at the top of this letter or email enquiries@apha.gov.uk and the team will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted APHA's own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

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

If you need to contact the ICO, it's best to do so online. Please click [here](#) for contact details. You can also call them on 0303 123 1113.