



Freedom of Information Team  
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David Mackie  
request-116011-427f4069@whatdotheyknow.com

FOI Reference: FOI316547  
25 May 2012

Dear Mr Mackie,

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS

I refer to your request where you asked:

- '1. Which person is accountable overall for the mainstreaming of sustainable development across government?*
- 2. If this person is the Prime Minister, which politician is the second in command on mainstreaming sustainable development across government?*
- 3. How does the Prime Minister and his team understand that government departments are held accountable for progress on the mainstreaming of sustainable development? (For instance, how is reporting dealt with? how is any underperformance dealt with?)*
- 4. As well as the politicians responsible for mainstreaming sustainable development, which Civil Servants have primary responsibility for mainstreaming sustainable development across government?*
- 5. What is the nature of the political role in relation to mainstreaming sustainable development, and what is the nature of the role of civil servants?*

*Please note, that I am not looking for \_opinion\_ relating to this issue. This is only a request for a summary of written information that is held on these issues. I think these are reasonable questions to request an answer to, given that the mainstreaming of sustainable development across government is an official government policy.'*

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has the lead responsibility for mainstreaming sustainable development. The Cabinet Office does not hold information which would allow us to collate answers to all of your questions.

You may wish to address your questions to Defra at [defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

However, outside of the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, I can tell you that much of the information you have requested is available at Defra's sustainable development website at <http://sd.defra.gov.uk/> which includes a copy of the Government's vision on mainstreaming sustainable development and progress reports.

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

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:

Roger Smethurst  
Head of Knowledge and Information Management  
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email: [foiteam@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foiteam@cabinet-office.x.gsi.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,



**FOI Team  
Cabinet Office**