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**Email: xxxxx**

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Department for Transport  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

DIRECT LINE: 020 7944 XXXX

Web Site: [www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)

Our Ref: F0008750

23 April 2012

Dear xxxxx,

**Freedom of Information Request - F0008750**

I am writing regarding your three requests for information, received on 22 March 2012. You requested information about departmental spending on computers, telephones and office supplies (print cartridges and paper). Your requests have been aggregated for cost purposes. Your fourth FOI request concerning spend on hire cars is being dealt with by a different part of the department and you will receive a separate response from them.

You specifically requested information for our 'Whitehall' office so this response covers the Central Department for Transport only.

The information requested can be found at Annex A subject to the following.

We have estimated that the cost of complying with your questions about amounts spent on printer cartridges and printing paper, over the last 3 financial years, would exceed the FOI cost limit of £600. Section 12 of the Act (the full text of which is attached at Annex B) does not oblige us to comply with requests that exceed this limit, and we are therefore refusing this part of your request.

Printer cartridge and printer paper costs are not recorded separately. We have estimated that the time taken to determine, locate, retrieve and extract this information, for the last 3 financial years from total spend figures would result in the FOI cost limit being exceeded.

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/01  
Ashdown House  
Sedlescombe Road North  
Hastings  
East Sussex TN37 7GA  
E-mail: [FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gsi.gov.uk)

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

If you wish to discuss any of the above, please contact xxxxxx in the DfT Press Office on 020 7944 xxxx. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

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**Your right to complain to the Department for Transport 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

## **Annex A**

### **Office supplies (print cartridges/paper)**

#### **Questions**

- 1) Total annual spending for the last three financial years by the department (Whitehall) on printer cartridges
- 2) The cost of an individual printer cartridge bought by the dept
- 3) Details of the supplier of printer cartridges to the department
- 4) Total annual spending for the last three financial years by the department on printing paper
- 5) The cost of a unit (box of printing paper) - details of the brand, number of sheets or weight
- 6) Details of the supplier of printing paper to the department.

#### **Answers**

- 1) We have estimated that time spent determining, locating, retrieving and extracting this information would result in the FOI cost limit of £600 being exceeded, as the spend for cartridges is only included in our total IT consumables spend.
- 2) The cost of an individual printer cartridge bought by the department. This is variable, depending on make and model, but as an example a black cartridge for an HP Laserjet 4200 is £57.02 + VAT.
- 3) Over the last three years the Department of Transport (Central) has had contracts with the following suppliers for cartridges: - Banner Business Supplies Ltd, Computacentre UK Ltd and Supplies Team Ltd.
- 4) We have estimated that time spent determining, locating, retrieving and extracting this information would result in the FOI cost limit of £600 being exceeded, as the spend for paper is only included in our total stationery spend.
- 5) Cost: 1 box (5 reams, 2,500 sheets) £11.60 + vat, Supplier: Office Depot
- 6) Over the last three years the Department of Transport (Central) has had contracts with the following suppliers for printing paper: - Banner Business Supplies Ltd, Office Depot Ltd and Townley Office Supplies Ltd.

### **Departmental phone bills and line rental (landlines)**

#### **Questions**

- 1) Annual breakdown for the last three financial years of the total amount spent on phone calls from departmental landlines (Whitehall)
- 2) Total number of staff based in Whitehall office
- 3) Total amount spent on monthly line rental broken down over the last three financial years
- 4) Name of the provider - e.g. BT, Virgin Media or Talk Talk

5) Details of how departmental phone operation is set-up - i.e. are calls at cheaper rate than from a home landline - details of how it is set up.

### Answers

- With respect to the above questions about call charges and line rental we do not hold exact figures and are only able to provide estimated figures below.
- There are 1669 permanent members of staff in the central department (as of 31/3/2012).
- We pay 0.5 pence a minute for local and national calls. We cannot really comment on whether that is cheaper than a home landline but we regularly review the market and are getting the lowest call charge rates available to an organisation of our size.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Call Charges</b>	<b>Circuit (line) Rental</b>	<b>Provider and comments</b>
2011/12	£50,789.64	£14,652.00	The service has been with Verizon since Sept 2009. Contract expires Sept 2014.
2010/11	£62,126.40	£14,652.00	
2009/10	£158,366.76		Up to Sept 2009, the PSTN service was split between three different providers (Verizon, Colt, and Smartcall) and the service was shared between DfT, CLG and part of DEFRA. It is not possible to split the line rental/circuit costs from the call charges from the data available.

## Departmental spending on computer equipment

### Questions

- 1) Details of the supplier of laptops and desktop computers for the department (Whitehall) .If this has changed within the last three years, then details of the previous supplier.
- 2) Annual spending for the last three financial years on computers - broken down by laptop and desktop computers and the total number of each
- 3) Details of the least and most expensive laptop and desktop computer each year over the last three financial years - for example, Dell laptop, £350 June 2009 or Apple imac £2,000 July 2011
- 4) Annual spending for the last three financial years on iPads and the total amount of each bought
- 5) Examples of what iPads are used for.

## Answers

Figures are based on local records to provide approximate hardware numbers and spend figures for laptops, desktop PCs and thin client PCs (the latter being a type of a desktop PC). All figures shown are net i.e. not inclusive of VAT.

1) DfT has sourced its laptops and desktops through Dell and thin client PCs through Hewlett Packard since 2009/10. There were no laptop, desktop or thin client purchases in 2010/11 as DfT sought to utilise its existing hardware estate. In 2011/12 there were no desktop or thin client purchases as DfT continued to redeploy existing assets, but sourced small batches of laptops through mini competitions with Equanet and Dell.

2) and 3)

Expenditure on laptop and desktop PCs (and thin client PCs) over the last 3 years as follows;

### **2011/12**

£56,717.62 spend on 90 laptops

Nil spend on desktop PCs

Nil spend thin client PCs

Most expensive laptop: Dell Latitude i5 E6320 with built in 3G at £828.24

Least expensive laptop: Dell Latitude i5 E5420 at £578.24

Most expensive desktop PC: N/A

Least expensive desktop PC: N/A

### **2010/11**

Nil spend on laptops

Nil spend on desktop PCs

Nil thin client PCs

Most expensive laptop: N/A

Least expensive laptop: N/A

Most expensive desktop PC: N/A

Least expensive desktop PC: N/A

### **2009/10**

£231,794.02 on 248 laptops

£93,350.98 spend on 193 desktop PCs

£14,844.70 spend on 130 thin client PCs

Most expensive laptop: Dell Latitude E4200 at unit price £1265.00

Least expensive laptop: Dell Latitude E4300 at unit price £916.00

Most expensive desktop PC: Dell Optiplex GX760 small form factor at unit price £486.00

Least expensive desktop PC: Dell Optiplex GX760 small form factor at unit price £486.00

Most expensive thin client PC: HP t5145 at £114.19 unit price

Least expensive thin client PC: HP t5145 at £114.19 unit price

Figures shown do not include VAT.

4) There has been nil spend on iPads; Central DfT has purchased nil units.

5) Not applicable as Central DfT does not currently deploy iPads.

## **Annex B**

### **Section 12 exemption:**

#### **Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit**

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

(2) Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.

(3) In subsections (1) and (2) “the appropriate limit” means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases.

(4) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority—

(a) by one person, or

(b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign,

the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.

(5) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated.