

Reference Number: DAERA/26-284

Request Details:

To provide details and costs in relation to Climate related posts and external consultants for the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.



Department of

**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

**Climate Change, Science and
Innovation Group (CCSIG)**

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Insert Date

Dear [Redacted]

Freedom of Information Act 2000

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 21 April 2026 which sought the following information:

1. Climate-related posts

a) The number of posts (headcount, and FTE where recorded) employed with job titles that include any of the following terms:

Climate; Net Zero; Sustainability; Carbon; Emissions; Environmental Sustainability; Climate Change; Climate Action; Climate Policy; Climate Programme; Climate Project; Climate Data; Climate Reporting; Climate Adaptation; Climate Resilience; Energy and Climate; Sustainable Procurement; Green Finance; Green.

2. Cost of those posts

The total employment cost for the posts identified in Question 1, including salary and employer on-costs (e.g. pension and National Insurance).

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3. External consultants

The total amount paid during the same financial year to external consultants, companies, or contractors where the expenditure is recorded under any cost centre, project code, budget line, or purchase description that includes one or more of the following terms:

Climate; Net Zero; Sustainability; Carbon; Emissions; Environmental Sustainability; Climate Change; Climate Action; Climate Policy; Climate Programme; Climate Project; Climate Data; Climate Reporting; Climate Adaptation; Climate Resilience; Energy and Climate; Sustainable Procurement; Green Finance; Green.

This should include, but not be limited to, expenditure coded to professional services, consultancy, advisory services, or specialist support.

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information you requested as per the table below and as qualified in the notes which follow.

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Number of posts	82.6	106	101
Cost of posts	£4.109m	£5.436m	£6.111m
Cost of external consultants, contractors and companies	£0.709m	£0.127m	£0.388m

1. Climate-related posts

As the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) does not operate with individualised job titles in the manner referenced in the request, the information has instead been based on the names of the relevant Divisions and teams within the Department that we can extract with ease. This does not include staff who may spend a proportion of their time on climate related duties where their roles are not exclusively focused on climate matters. Staffing figures have been taken from payroll reports as at end of March for each relevant financial year. Where staffing numbers are expressed as decimals, this reflects the inclusion of part-time staff.

2. Cost of those posts

The total employment cost for the posts identified in Question 1, includes salary and employer on costs (e.g. pension and National Insurance).

3. External consultants, Companies and Contractors

In response to your request, we have identified and provided information on expenditure incurred during the relevant financial year relating to external consultants, companies, and contractors where descriptions reference the terms set out in your request (for example, "Climate", "Net Zero", "Sustainability", "Carbon", "Green", and related terms).

Given the broad scope of the request and the wide range of coding structures and descriptions involved, we sought clarification to help narrow and streamline the

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search. As the clarification received remained limited, this restricted our ability to extract the information from existing resources.

While reasonable efforts have been made to identify and disclose relevant information held, we cannot guarantee that the data provided captures all expenditure that may fall within the parameters described. Identifying all such expenditure would require a manual review of a very large volume of individual financial transactions that are not consistently referenced. This would involve disproportionate time and resources and would exceed our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act.

Accordingly, the information disclosed should be regarded as partial and indicative rather than exhaustive.

If you require any clarification, believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact me in the first instance to see if it is a matter that can be resolved.

If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department. If you wish to do so, please contact The Review Section either by e-mailing daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk or by post at The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Data Protection & Information Management Branch, Floor 2, Jubilee House, 111 Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, Limavady BT49 9HP, within two months from the date of this letter.

If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department's decision.

Yours sincerely,

CCSIG Coordination Team
CCSI.coordination@daera-ni.gov.uk

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