

[REDACTED]

Our Reference: FOI 1491

By email: [REDACTED]

Date: 27 January 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your emailed request dated 7 January 2014.

You requested the following:

- how much was spent on Departmental Christmas and New Year parties last year (i.e. November/December 2013) hosted by staff or ministers at the Department
- a detailed breakdown of what the money was spent on
- the venue and date of each party and the number of people invited
- minutes of any meetings at which such parties were included as a separate agenda item
- if none were funded by public money, please detail exactly how they were funded

Please send this in an electronic copy over email.

Your request is being handled under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act)

The information you require is not held by the Food Standards Agency, as no Departmental parties took place. Some staff Christmas parties are organised at team level but are not funded by the Food Standards Agency or the 'public purse'. All payment for all parties is settled by individual staff contributions.

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

If you are not satisfied with the way the Agency has handled your request for information, you should write within two calendar months of the date of this letter to the Openness Team, and ask for an internal review. They will arrange for the Complaints Coordinator to conduct the review. Their address is Food Standards Agency, Room 2C Aviation House, 125 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6NH (email: Openness.team@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Agency. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or through the website at: www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the Openness Team.

Openness Team