

Quangocracy: Appendix 2

Sponsorship FOI

February 2025

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1. Methodology

FOI requests were sent to each of the 16 departments list below in December 2024:

- Cabinet Office
- Department for Business and Trade
- Department for Culture, Media and Sport
- Department for Education
- Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
- Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
- Department of Health and Social Care
- Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
- Department for Transport
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
- HM Treasury
- Home Office
- Ministry of Defence
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
- Ministry of Justice

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, would it please be possible for you to provide me with following information:

What is the headcount (number) of staff employed in Arm's Length Body Sponsorship teams or equivalent in your department?

I understand that under the Act I am entitled to a response within twenty working days of your receipt of this request. If you require any clarification or find any aspects of this FOI request problematic, please contact me under your section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance.

If my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you please justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I would prefer to receive all information electronically. Please send all correspondence to patrick.king@reform.uk.

2. Departments' responses

Department	Headcount or Full-time equivalent (FTE)	Number of staff employed in ALB sponsorship teams or equivalent
All departments	Minimum headcount	256
Department for Business and Trade	Headcount	55
Cabinet Office	N/A	Did not hold information
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	FTE (though some only in a part-time capacity)	70
Department for Education	Headcount	40
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero	N/A	Did not respond within statutory timeframe
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	Headcount	53
Department of Health and Social Care	Headcount	42
Department for Science, Innovation and Technology	FTE	26.65
Department for Transport	FTE	41
Department for Work and Pensions	FTE	27
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office	FTE	14
HM Treasury	Headcount	17
Home Office	Headcount	41
Ministry of Defence	FTE	3
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government	FTE	25.3
Ministry of Justice	Headcount	8

*NB, some departments responded to *Reform's* Freedom of Information request with information that they held on the number of full-time equivalent staff working in sponsorship rather than headcount.

Since one FTE staff member is equivalent to at least one unit of headcount, combining the number of FTE staff with the headcount of staff working in sponsorship gives a minimum headcount of staff across these two categories. It is possible that the total headcount of staff working in sponsorship is higher, as one full-time equivalent staff member could be equal to a headcount of several part-time staff.

DESNZ did not respond to the FOI request within the required response period of 20 working days. They had still not responded by 20 February 2025.

ABOUT REFORM

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