

INFORMATION RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Information released title	Salary details over £100k
Original request	<p>1) The names and job titles of any person employed by your public body (either as a staff member, a freelancer, a contractor), who was paid over £100,000 in the financial years 2009/10 and 2008/9. I appreciate that 2009/10 isn't over yet but as most of the people listed above are on fixed salaries can you please tell me who is on over 100 grand for this year?</p> <p>2) If anyone left in the middle of a financial year but would have earned £100,000 or more had they stayed on, can you tell us about them as well, please?</p> <p>3) Can you tell us who signed off on these £100,000+ incomes... (e.g. was it a select committee, the Head of HR, the boss (and if it was the boss who was on over £100,000 a year who agreed on his or her salary)).</p> <p>4) Can you please give us the details of any bonuses, pension contributions, over-time extras, 'golden handshakes', 'golden farewells' and redundancy payments that the people you mention above received in the financial years 2008/9 and 2009/10?</p> <p>Given that the Prime Minister (salary c. £185,000 a year) has said he wants a similar list made public, I am sure you will be more than happy to hand over the above details in less than the expected 20 day FOI time frame.</p> <p>Please can common sense and transparency and NOT obfuscation rule your response to this request. If someone is on £100,000 or more a year, we'd like to know who they are and what they do.</p> <p>I believe this request conforms with the 6th condition of schedule 2 of the Data Protection Act and that there is a legitimate public interest in knowing the details of the amount of money spent on employing senior staff of public authorities. And is in accordance with the Information Commissioner Awareness Guidance that states where individuals: 'carry out public functions, hold elective office or spend public funds they must have the expectation that their public actions will be subject to greater scrutiny than would be the case in respect of their private lives'. There can be no legitimate privacy argument for officials being paid with public money to carry out public functions.</p> <p>I also refer you to the ruling in the cases of Corby Borough Council, August 2005 and the House of Commons V Information Commissioner and Brooke, Leapman and Thomas, 26th February 2008 where the information Commissioner ruled that the public interest in disclosure of salaries outweighed the right to privacy under section 40 (2) of the FOIA.</p>

Date of release	31.03.2010
Requester type	Investigative Journalist

Information released:

Thank you for your email request dated 1st March and your further clarification email dated 5th March 2010. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that during the financial year 2008/09, we had two people on a fixed salary of over £100,000. The exact salary details are being withheld under section 40(2), third party personal data. We believe disclosure of this information would invade the privacy of the subjects, which cannot be justified. The information can be released within £5,000 bands. However, this information is withheld as we consider this information to be exempt under section 21, information reasonably accessible by other means. This information is freely available from our website www.ukces.org.uk within the annual report 2008/09 where disclosure of salary and benefits in kind are included (this includes salary, allowances, benefits in kind and performance pay). Pension contributions are also detailed in the annual report. Please note that the financial information in the annual report 2009/10 is for seventeen months ending March 2009.

Of the two people who are employed on a fixed term salary, one person was transferred from one of our predecessor organisations. I have searched our records and can confirm that the UK Commission for Employment and Skills does not hold information detailing the salary agreement. Therefore regulation 12(4)(a) applies to your request. Regulation 12(4)(a) provides an exception to the duty to disclose information when information is not held.

The remaining person's salary was agreed by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills in line with HM Treasury guidance.

I can confirm that during the financial year 2009/10, we do have one person on a fixed salary of over £100,000. This information is withheld as we consider this information to be exempt under section 22, information intended for future publication. This information will be included within the 2009/10 annual report which is due for publication following the financial year end 2010. Once published, this will be available from our website as detailed above. However, for your information, there have been no salary increases during 2009/10.

One employee who would have earned over £100,000 left in July 2009.

No other employees are on a fixed salary of over £100,000. We have not paid any overtime extras, golden handshakes, golden farewells or redundancy payments during the financial years 2008/09 and 2009/10.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review by writing to the Head of Secretariat Services at the above address.

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:
The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House

Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone 08456 30 60 60 or 01625 54 57 45, Website: www.ico.gov.uk

There is no charge for making an appeal.