



GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
FOR THE SOUTH WEST

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8 April 2005

Dear Mr

Thank you for your letter of 13 March 2005 to Richard Bayly requesting information about Common Purpose, and your subsequent phone call to Susan Robson on 24 March 2005. I can confirm that GOSW does hold the information that you have requested and that I am able to provide you with that information.

Firstly, to respond to your phone enquiry on 24 March:

- My apologies for the omission of the customer services leaflet, which I understand has now been sent to you.
- I can confirm that the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act is 2000, but it came into force on 1st January 2005. This can be confirmed by the FOI website [www.foi.gov.uk](http://www.foi.gov.uk).
- All FOI requests should be answered promptly, and should be met within 20 working days. Therefore from the date that we first received your request, 15 March, allowing 20 working days will take us to the target completion date of 14 April. I am pleased to be able to respond to you before that date.

I am pleased to be able to respond to you before the target date as follows:

1. Over the 6 years from 2001 to 2005, GOSW has spent £60,120.21 from its Learning & Development budget on services provided by Common Purpose.
2. 20 staff have completed Common Purpose programmes. Their positions range from Senior Executive Officers to Grade 3 (breakdown: 5 Senior Civil Servants, 11 x Grade 7s, 4 x Senior & Higher Executive Officers).
3. We are unable to release the names of staff as this information constitutes personal data of a third party, and is therefore exempt under section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act.
4. All learning and development activities should be clearly linked to personal, team or GOSW business objectives. Individuals are expected to take responsibility for their own learning and development needs and discuss them with their line manager. A wide range of service providers are available to