

Alastair Kelly

E-Mail: sophie.bold@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Replied via:
request-20697-f3f644c1@whatdotheyknow.com

Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk

10 November 2009

Dear Mr Kelly,

Money spent by the Department for Transport on the proposed third runway and sixth terminal at Heathrow: request for information reference F0005812

I am writing in response to your request, made on 13 October 2009, and later clarified by email on 19 October, for the following information:

1. To the present day, what is the total amount of public money that has been spent by the DfT on the subject of a proposed third runway and sixth terminal at Heathrow Airport, following publication of the original White Paper in 2003?
2. How much money was spent in total on the public consultation about the proposed third runway and sixth terminal at Heathrow Airport that began in November 2007?
3. To date what is the total amount of money spent by the DfT on legal fees associated with any matters arising from the proposal of the third runway and the sixth terminal at Heathrow Airport?

Information in this format has not been collected centrally but I have gone through our records to identify the main areas of spend and they can be broadly defined under two main headings:

- i) The Project for Sustainable Development of Heathrow (PSDH)
- ii) Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation and response analysis

The PSDH was established by the Department in March 2004 to consider the likely impacts of a third runway. A number of contracts were let under the PSDH, primarily for modelling the likely noise and air quality implications of any Heathrow expansion (including from increased surface access activity). The work was completed by October 2007 and on 23 October of that year, Jim Fitzpatrick, then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport answered a written parliamentary question on the Department's expenditure on the PSDH for each year since its launch, these figures amounted to some £1.87 million. This information is already in the public domain, published in Hansard. A copy of the parliamentary question and the relevant web address can be found at Annex A.

On the costs related to the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation, this information is also already in the public domain, having been given in response to a

parliamentary question in March of this year. For convenience I have attached a copy at Annex B. You will see that total costs were around £3.1 million.

You also requested the total cost of legal fees associated with the proposed expansion of Heathrow.

There was, as you may be aware, a Judicial Review (JR) against the 2003 Future of Air Transport White Paper which included issues relating to the expansion of Heathrow. The cost order resulting from this JR was such that the claimants should pay a proportion of the legal costs the Secretary of State incurred relating to the grounds of challenge that failed; and that the Secretary of State should pay a proportion of the claimants' legal costs relating to the grounds of challenge which succeeded. To complicate this matter further this JR mainly included grounds against Stansted, Heathrow only secondly and thirdly Luton airport. Taking all of this into account it is not possible to arrive at a precise figure for the costs directly associated to the Heathrow section of the case, for example what proportion of a billed meeting was spent discussing Heathrow airport.

From the information I have collated from all other relevant invoices, I estimate that the total cost of legal fees paid to date since that time amounts to around £53,000.

None of the above figures includes any estimate of the Department's staff costs, since it is in most cases impossible to give a precise figure for the percentage of any individual's time that is spent on Heathrow business. The main aspects of the proposed expansion of Heathrow are dealt with within the South-East Airports Policy team which also deals with airports such as Gatwick and Stansted. This team currently consists of four full-time civil servants. In practice, however, the work since 2003 has been spread across a number of teams within the Department whose responsibilities also extend beyond Heathrow. It is therefore not possible to isolate the costs of staff effort specifically on the Heathrow work.

I can confirm that this response will be published in due course on the Department's website.

If you are unhappy with the way the Department has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the Department's Information Rights Unit at:

Zone D/04
Ashdown House
Sedlescombe Road North
St Leonards on Sea
East Sussex TN37 7GA
E-mail: FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,

Sophie Bold

Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its FOI publication scheme.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Annex A

- **Cost relating to the Project for the Sustainable Development of Heathrow**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm071023/text/71023w0017.htm#07102373000015>

23 Oct 2007 : Column 229W

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much her Department has spent on the Project for the Sustainable Development of Heathrow process in each year since 2004; and if she will make a statement; [160393]

(2) which other organisations also provided funding in relation to work carried out as part of the Project for the Sustainable Development of Heathrow; how much was provided in each case; and if she will make a statement. [160400]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Expenditure to date by the Department has amounted to roundly:

	£000
2004-05	300
2005-06	580
2006-07	690
2007-08	300

These figures include the costs of consultancy work but do not include departmental staffing costs.

The Department does not hold information on costs incurred by other parties, the great majority of which will have fallen to BAA.

Annex B

- **Cost of the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090318/text/90318w0003.htm>

18 Mar 2009 : Column 1148W

Heathrow Airport: Public Consultation

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent (a) on external consultants and (b) in total on the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation. [262453]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department paid external consultants £1,155,536.43 for their input to the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation and the related Equalities impact assessment consultation. The overall cost of both consultations (not including staff costs) was £3,119,921.44.

