



Architects Registration Board

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Date: 26 November 2009  
Ref: FOI – Europe

By Email

Dear Mr Salisbury,

### **Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your request of 29 October 2009, in which you made the following request for information.

1. The European Communities (Recognition of Professional Qualifications) Regulations 2007 were brought into force on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2007, and the Architects (Recognition of the European Qualifications etc and saving and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2008 were brought into force on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2008. I think that the “enforce” period will have been long enough for the Board to have gathered information that gives the costs to the Board arising out of those Regulations.

I would be grateful if you would let me have details of those costs, and annualised.

I have considered your request for information very carefully. I have interpreted it to mean that you require information on the Board’s expenditure in relation to the execution of its duties relating to the Qualifications Directive and associated regulations.

Having looked at the expenditure directly relating to the legislation, I have identified the following area of cost: legal advice, updating guidance, devising provisions for Part 2 of the Register and costs associated with the notification of qualifications to the European Commission. I am, however, unable to identify specific staff costs incurred in this area, as we do not calculate staff resources directly to actual activities.

Whilst I am able to provide the breakdown of the costs listed below, I must point out that the Board has always incurred costs in relation to its role as a competent authority. As you will appreciate, the early years of any new Directive are likely to attract exceptional costs.

Legal advice: 2007 = £58,854  
2008 = £54,542  
2009 = £34,793

Updating published guidance = £4,000

Devising system for Part 2 registration = £6,000

Associated costs of notification of Qualifications to Europe since 2008 = £7,138

Part 2 of your request stated:

2. I am aware that the Board also pay for subscription to the Architects Council of Europe and engages in the activity of that Council. I am particularly interested to know whether the above two sets of regulations have affected the level of the Boards activities in respect of this Council. May I therefore know how much the Board spends on this activity, and its subscription, for the past 3 years (that is for 2008, 2007 and 2006) together with any provisional figures that you may have concerning expenditure for the current year. May I please ask you to identify in your figures
  - (a) the amounts paid to Board members and expenses set against number of foreign trips undertaken (which number please provide); and
  - (b) the same for the Board's officers;
  - (c) the costs of payments to third parties including (which includes itemised) ACE; and
  - (d) internal administration and all associations including staff costs.

The Board has been a joint member of the Architects Council of Europe with the RIBA for the last nine years. Membership costs are split between the two organisations, as is attendance at various meetings of the Council. The subscription costs are listed below.

2006 = £31,461  
2007 = £31,755  
2008 = £37,179  
2009 = £40,313

As the subscription fee is payable in Euros, the exchange rate has had a significant impact on the actual cost to ARB.

Please find attached as Annex A a breakdown of the costs you have asked for in (a), (b) and (c). As previously explained, we do not calculate staff resources against individual activities, so I am unable to provide you with the information requested in (d).

In your request, you were particularly interested to know whether the Qualifications Directive and regulations have affected the level of the Board's activities in its dealings with ACE. Whilst there have been numerous discussions at the General Assembly meetings of ACE with regards to the Directive, there has only been one attendance by a member of staff at a specific working group to discuss the Qualifications Directive.

ACE holds two General Assembly meetings a year which are normally attended by two Board members and the Registrar. ACE also has a number of working groups running throughout the year, and our attendance is dictated by their relevance to the Board's work.

I hope the information provided is of assistance, but please do not hesitate to contact me if I can assist further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karen', followed by a period.

**Karen Holmes**  
**Deputy Registrar and Head of Registration**