

Steve Martin

By email to 27118-e307a1e0@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Ref: F0006109

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Dear Mr Martin

**Application under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 – F0006109**

I am writing in response to your request for information dated 17<sup>th</sup> January 2010, made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in respect of information relating to consultancy spend.

Your request stated “Please provide a breakdown of the expenditure made by your department on consultants for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009. Please provide information on the consultants used, the amount spent and the purpose of the expenditure. Please include within this scope all consultants, including those used for design and management and advice. Please also provide details of what your current projections are for years 2010, 2011 and 2012.”

The Department has previously responded to a similar request which can be found on the DfT website by following the link:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/foi/responses/2009/oct/foi5632/>

Information relating to projections for spend with consultants for 2010, 2011 and 2012 is not held centrally and we estimate that the cost of searching for the information would exceed the appropriate limit of £600. Section 12 of the FOI Act provides an exemption for the Department from complying with a request where the cost in determining whether the information is held, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information exceeds £600. The figure of £600 represents the estimated cost of one person spending 24 hours costing £25.00 per hour.

The information provided may now be published on our 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  
Hastings  
East Sussex TN37 7GA  
E-mail: FOI-Advice-Team-Dxx@xxx.xxx.xxx.xx

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

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

**Neil Doran**

Direct Line: 020 7944 8483  
Divisional Enquiries: 020 7944 8484  
Fax: 020 7944 8440  
GTN No: 3533 8483  
e-mail: neil.xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xxx.xx  
[www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)  
[www.dft.gov.uk/about/procurement](http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/procurement)

## **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