



Department
for Exiting the
European Union

Freedom of Information Team
Correspondence Unit
9 Downing Street
SW1A 2AG

foi@dexeu.gov.uk
www.gov.uk

Lee B

Via: request-490859-399acaeb@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: DEX001257

10 July 2018

Dear Lee B,

I refer to your request, where you asked:

I'd like to know how much money (and where this money came from) has been spent in the following areas in relation to Brexit so far, ideally in a monthly or by minister breakdown:

1. Travel expenses (for example, flights to/from Brussels & other countries where applicable, and in the case of flights, either the class flown in if the flights were operated by commercial operators, or the operator themselves if they were private charters)
 2. Hotel & accommodation expenses
 3. Hospitality expenses
 4. Costs of commissioning reports, surveys and other similar works from other organisations
 5. Total "man-hours" and associated salary amounts (doesn't have to be by minister/staff member if they don't want to divulge their salaries) of time spent out of their normal working time
 6. Average weekly costs of running the department (things like utilities, staff, rent, ideally separated but combined will be fine)
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1 - 3) I can confirm the Department for Exiting the European Union (DExEU) holds information relevant to this part of your request. This information has been made available to the public through transparency reports. Public authorities are not required to reissue information that is already in the public domain (section 21(1) of FoIA), however, we have provided you further detail and links to this information.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/department-for-exiting-the-european-union-seni-or-officials-hospitality-meetings-and-travel-january-to-march-2018>

4, 6) The information relating to these questions is published by the Department in the Annual Report and Accounts, the latest of which are due to be released in July. The information you have requested is therefore exempt under Section 22(1) of the Act, as information being held by the public authority with a view to its publication at some future date. We have to consider whether questions that may arise from an incomplete document warrant the use of administrative time/public funds effectively. Where many parts of the documentation may change before official publication and given that release of this

information may place undue burden on government departments/politicians in answering questions when key parts of the information may be amended or indeed removed altogether, waiting until the full document is ready, and then allowing the public to assess the document in its fullness, is of significant public interest. Providing this information in response to an FOI request is not the most cost effective way of placing this information in the public domain, when it will be published in due course on DExEU's website. However I have provided a link with the Annual report and accounts for year 2016/17.

Please note we have interpreted question '4' as 'consultancy expenditures', which will be published in the Annual Report and Accounts. Further to the information you have requested I have provided a link to contracts that have incurred a cost of £25000 and above. Additionally pg60 of the 2016/17 Annual Report and Accounts will show how 'consultancy expenditure' has been recorded in the previous years.

The department does not record costs in weekly increments, however an estimate can be calculated using the total cost.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/department-for-exiting-the-european-union-spending-over-25000-april-2018>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/annual-report-and-accounts-2016-17>

5) I can confirm the department does not hold information related to your request, this is because we do not record associated costs linked to working hours. You may however be able to calculate an estimated weekly figure for various costs using the information provided in the Annual Report and Accounts, via the link provided above.

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

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to foi@dexeu.gov.uk or:

Freedom of Information Team (internal review)
Department for Exiting the European Union
9 Downing Street
SW1A 2AG

You should note that DExEU will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by DExEU. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wilmslow
Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team, DExEU.