

21/10/2011

DE00000647773

Dear Mr Jones,

Thank you for your request of 29 September 2011 under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). Your exact request was:

"[1] Could you please provide me with details of any external companies or agencies that have provided consultancy services to the department - or any companies which the department has outsourced some of it's responsibilities too.

[2] As a member of the group responsible for Offender Health – could you please also advise me of any outsourcing contracts you have for this purpose."

I can confirm that the Department holds some information relevant to your request.

1)

Please see Attachment (A) for the total expenditure by the Department on consultancy.

However, please be aware that the Department's central procurement database (Business Management System) does not contain a separate category for 'outsourced' responsibilities, services or functions. Therefore, we do not hold the information in the format you have requested.

2)

From our preliminary assessment, we are unable to answer this question without further clarification.

In particular, please could you inform us whether you mean outsourcing contracts in respect of the Department of Health Offender Health policy unit's work, or outsourced contracts in relation to private prisons.

Once we have this clarification from you we can proceed with establishing whether any relevant information is held by the Department.

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

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Head of the Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health
Room 317
Richmond House
79 Whitehall,
London
SW1A 2NS

Email: freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Jamie Scott

Freedom of Information Officer
Department of Health

freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk