



Home Office

Shared Services
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020 7035 4848
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www.homeoffice.gov.uk

BritCits

[request-198997-
eccb0397@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-198997-eccb0397@whatdotheyknow.com)

March 2014

Dear BritCits,

Freedom of Information request (reference number: 30849)

Thank you for your e-mail on 24 February 2014, in which you ask for information about how much has been spent on legal costs and legal fees by the Home Office whilst Theresa May has been Secretary of State. The request is set out in full in annex A.

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Under section 12(2) of the Act, the Home Office is not obliged to provide information where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

We have estimated that the cost of determining whether we hold the information requested would exceed the cost limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. This is because the type of information you have requested is not centrally recorded.

Some information is already available in the public domain, such as Court and Tribunal judgments relating to cases which have been determined. We are involved in various Courts and Tribunals and our computer records do not hold reportable information. As such we would need to search our databases and manual records to find this information. To cover all the legal costs whilst Theresa May has been Secretary of State would be a disproportionate cost.

The £600 limit is based on work being carried out at a rate of £25 per hour, which equates to 24 hours of work per request. The cost of locating, retrieving and extracting information and preparing the response can be included in the costs for these purposes. The costs do not include considering whether any information is exempt from disclosure, overheads such as heating or lighting, or items such as photocopying or postage.

If you refine your request, so that it is more likely to fall under the cost limit, we will consider it again. You may be able to do so by narrowing the timeframe or limiting your

request to a particular area of the Home Office, although please be aware that this may still result in a large volume of cases.

The following link to the Home Office Annual report will provide you with some legal cost details

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/210660/Annual_Report_and_Accounts_FINAL_updated_logo.pdf.

Please note that if you simply break your request down into a series of similar smaller requests, we might still decline to answer it if the total cost exceeds £600.

Yours sincerely

N Rawell

Information Access Team

Switchboard 020 7035 4848

E-mail info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Annex A – Freedom of information request

From: BritCits [<mailto:request-198997-eccb0397@whatdotheyknow.com>]
Sent: 23 February 2014 00:06
To: FOI Requests
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Legal costs

Dear Home Office,

Please provide a figure stating the amount of money spent on legal costs and legal fees by the Home Office whilst Theresa May has been Secretary of State, including Treasury Solicitors and barrister fees. This should include amounts spent with the Home office/ SSHD in as an appellant/defendant. Please also provide the as at date that the figure relates to.

Regards

BritCits

Annex B

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the address below, quoting reference 30849. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

Information Access Team
Home Office
Ground Floor, Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
e-mail: info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.