



Home Office

Corporate Services
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

020 7035 4848
(switchboard)

www.homeoffice.gov.uk

BritCits

By email: request-220174-d96ac045@whatdotheyknow.com

12 November 2014

Dear BritCits,

Freedom of Information request (our reference: 33315)

I am writing in response to your e-mail of 23 October 2014, in which you request the further information set out below, following our response to your previous FOI request reference 32932:

‘Which of these 124 have been used or are used for the provision of legal services in relation to immigration and asylum cases since this government came into power in May 2010’.

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

Under section 12 of the Act, the Home Office is not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

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. We do not routinely maintain paper or electronic records of such cases centrally, so it would not be possible to collect this information without exceeding the cost limit.

We would have to ask all policy units, many of which have been re-structured since 2010, to manually check their own, and their predecessors’ records. Due to the above and that the Home Office use of providers of legal services (other than Treasury Solicitors) is very scant we would not be able to generate a reliable list of the organisations, firms and individuals from whom we have obtained legal services in relation to immigration and asylum since May 2010.

I can, however, explain that department has made only minimal use of any of the 124 listed providers of legal services in relation to immigration and asylum cases. The one exception is Treasury Solicitors, whom the Home Office routinely instructs in all litigation matters. It is then Treasury Solicitors who obtain any external legal advice, for example from Counsel.

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 **33315**. 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.

Yours sincerely

L. Galarza
Information Services Centre
Switchboard 020 7035 4848
E-mail info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk