



Home Office

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BritCits  
request-220174-  
d96ac045@whatdotheyknow.com

5<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Dear BritCits,

**Freedom of Information request (reference number: 33710)**

Thank you for your email of 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014 where you asked for information regarding legal expenditure in relation to immigration and asylum. A full copy of your request can be found in the attached annex. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I can confirm that the Home Office holds in the information you requested, however we are only able to provide the litigation costs for the years specified.

IMMIGRATION & ASYLUM - LITIGATION EXPENDITURE 2011-14		
2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
£ms	£ms	£ms
35.7	44.15	51.42

The figures above show the litigation expenditure in relation to immigration and asylum. Because of the way data was recorded in the past, it is not possible to provide information on a comparable basis for 2010-11 due to differences in financial reporting structure at that time.

Please note that the figures provided include litigation costs for the entire immigration and asylum group, for example, the costs for commercial disputes and HR cases, as well as other functions. It is not possible to break the expenditure down further without exceeding the cost limit.

You have additionally asked whether the Home Office pays Counsel directly. The usual practice is for Home Office to pay TSol a sum including fees for Counsel, rather than for the Home Office to pay Counsel direct.

In keeping with the Freedom of Information Act, we assume that all information can be released to the public unless it is exempt. In line with normal practice we are therefore releasing the information which you requested via the Home Office website.

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: **33710**. 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: [FOIRequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FOIRequests@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,

A Anokwuru  
Information Access Team

## **Annex**

### **Information requested**

Does HO pay Counsel directly, or are payments to Counsel within the figures provided as fees to T-Sol?

Please let me know of the total spend on immigration and asylum,

Please provide data on litigation expenditure, as well as spend on non-litigation where this info is available and where it relates to immigration and asylum expenditure.

I would like data on Home Office's costs, but also separately and if available, where Home Office has been required to pay costs for any other parties as well.