



L Fisher

By email: request-617350-cee43ccd@whatdotheyknow.com

FOI Reference: FOI328926
21/11/2019

Dear L Fisher

I refer to your request where you asked:

My understanding is that the Fast Stream is funded by charging government departments for each Fast Streamer and their work. Please could you confirm that this is correct.

- 1. Please also give any information relating to any other major sources of funding for the Fast Stream (e.g. central funding from Cabinet Office).*
- 2. Please could you also provide, for the last 10 years, the cost to departments for a Fast Streamer. Please include any information as to whether, during this time, different departments have had received significantly different rates (>10%).*

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is held by the Cabinet Office.

1. That is not correct. The Fast Stream is an accelerated leadership development programme rather than a resourcing programme. At the start of each programme cohort, whether a 3 or 4-year programme, departments make a bid for a future pipeline of individuals they expect to need at the end of the programme. We re-charge departments on the basis of those bids, irrespective of the number of Fast Streamers they may have sitting in their organisation undertaking their experiential placements at any given time. This is essentially an "investment" charge. Fast Streamer numbers employed at the start of a cohort will usually exceed those required at the end of a programme. This is to allow for attrition over the duration of the programme therefore an average cost per bid is not representative of a cost per individual.
2. Fast Stream is purely funded by re-charges to departments. We do not receive any other source of funding.

3. We are unable to provide costs to departments per Fast Streamer for the last 10 years as we do not operate on that basis as explained above. In addition, the centrally managed Fast Stream started recruitment in 2012 with the first intake in 2013. However, we have provided an average annual charge per bid per programme in the table below as the proportion of a particular cohort in any given financial year April to March as the Fast Stream programme cohorts commence mid-financial year (September/ October).

Average annual charge per bid per scheme**

		2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (Forecast)
1	Commercial			£34,540*	£43,383	£46,002	£53,860	£56,509
2	Communications			£27,302*	£30,033	£35,443	£50,084	£51,228
3	Digital, Data & Technology		£23,728*	£42,028	£41,815	£46,303	£57,405	£53,304
4	Finance			£29,928*	£39,704	£46,991	£57,076	£59,751
5	Generalist Fast Stream	£29,437*	£35,595	£42,463	£46,565	£49,519	£53,652	£53,546
6	Project Delivery				£32,289*	£36,833	£50,229	£55,779
7	Science & Engineering			£25,866*	£33,247	£35,759	£53,033	£52,943
8	Statistical Service				£27,843*	£39,647	£52,997	£51,242

*Year 1 therefore figures based on 6 to 7 months' costs as the Fast Stream intake happens at two points in the financial year, September and October.

**There are two models for managing the Fast Stream, centrally managed and department or profession managed. We are only able to provide figures for the centrally managed schemes.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the FOI Team quoting the reference number above.

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:

Eirian Walsh Atkins
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

email: foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

You should note that the Cabinet Office 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 Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. B. King', written over a light grey circular stamp.

FOI Team
Cabinet Office