



Darren  
Via: request-451182-6c2050db@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: DEX000926

09 January 2018

Dear Darren,

I refer to your request, where you asked:

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- 1). The cost of the department so far, and anticipated cost for the year 2017-18 and subsequent years.
  - 2). The amount spent on Brexit preparations thus far (excluding costs listed as part of the above) and how that is broken down.  
**Clarified:** *The amount spent on Brexit preparations thus far and how that is broken down, within the Department for Exiting the European Union.*
  - 3). How much it must cost the UK taxpayer and economy before being confirmed as unsustainable.  
**Clarified:** *Has the Department for Exiting the European Union considered what is the upmost cost that the Department deems to be acceptable in the process of exiting the European Union.*
  - 4). Details of the assessments undertaken thus far and the results of such.  
**Clarified:** *Mr David Davis has informed HM Parliament on a number of occasions that assessments had been undertaken on the impact of exiting the European Union on different industries within the United Kingdom.*
  - 5). The cost of the anticipated 'divorce bill'.

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I can confirm the Department for Exiting the European Union (DExEU) holds in part information relevant to your request. I have answered each part of your request in turn.

**[1-2].** This information is held by DExEU. Public authorities are not required to reissue information that is already in the public domain (section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)), however, we have provided you further detail and links to this information. Departmental expenditure and annual budgets is published as part of our Annual Report and Accounts publication. Funding to support the UK's re-negotiation with the European Union is also broken down per financial year until the UK's exit is complete.

The latest report for 2016/17 is available via the link below - Departmental expenditure can

be found detailed on page 11 and page 46:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/annual-report-and-accounts-2016-17>

This will be updated in due course for 2017/18.

It should be noted, preparations for the UK's withdrawal from the European Union are taking place across Government and therefore, these isolated costs concerning DExEU do not represent the total expenditure on preparations for the UK's exit.

**3.** Under the guidance issued by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), we do not find this to be a valid request under FoIA. Any request must be for recorded information held by the Department at the time of the request.

**4.** I must inform you that DExEU is unable to comply with this part of your request. Section 12 of FoIA relieves public authorities of the duty to comply with a request for information if the cost of dealing with it would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central government this is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Taking into account how our records are classified, it would be difficult to carry out a search within the section 12 limitations since it is unclear what "details" concerning "assessments [undertaken] [...] on different industries within the United Kingdom" you are seeking. "Details" could be further defined and could be related to a particular policy, region or event, which would enable us to search and collate information relevant to your request. I must also inform you that if DExEU does hold any information, it may be subject to one or more of the exemptions contained in the Freedom of Information Act.

The Exiting the EU Select Committee has published a number of reports which you may find relevant to your request. These can be found at the following link:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/exiting-the-european-union-committee/publications/>

**5.** This information is not held. The cost of the 'anticipated divorce bill' has not been definitively settled. However, information pertaining to the methodology of calculation of the financial settlement has been published. For more information, please see page 9 of the Joint Report on Progress during phase 1 of negotiations under Article 50 TEU on the UK's orderly withdrawal from the EU:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-report-on-progress-during-phase-1-of-negotiations-under-article-50-teu-on-the-uks-orderly-withdrawal-from-the-eu>

You may wish to read guidance from the Information Commissioner on forming a valid request, which can be found at the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information/>

Although we have provided a response in this instance, the Department will require a full name to process any further requests.

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

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 [foi@dex.eu.gov.uk](mailto:foi@dex.eu.gov.uk) or:

Freedom of Information Team (internal review)  
Department for Exiting the European Union  
9 Downing Street  
SW1A 2AG

You should note that DExEU 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 DExEU. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

**Freedom of Information Team, DExEU.**