



HM Revenue
& Customs

Mr Ralph Bolton

By email:

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Freedom of Information Team

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Date: 3 August 2020

Our ref: FOI2020/01206

Dear Mr Bolton

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Thank you for your request, which was received on 3 July, for the following information:

“Regarding the "Customer Strategy and Tax Design" group within HMRC, please can you give details of any legal skills, training or other similar qualifications within the group. Further, any skills or qualifications that particularly relate to the interpretation of Parliaments intent (when it passes legislation).

Please note I don't need an exhaustive list, but rather please detail any "stand out" points, and if time allows anything else of note.”

We can confirm we hold information within scope of your request. However, providing it would exceed the FOIA cost limit, which for central government equates to one person spending 3½ working days locating and extracting all of the information requested. We have therefore refused your request under [section 12\(1\)](#) of the FOIA.

Customer Strategy and Tax Design (CS&TD) is a high level group within our [organisation structure](#). As the provided link will show, we have a number of business areas grouped under CS&TD. You have asked us to release details of legal skills, training or similar qualifications for the 1000s of staff that work within CS&TD. Such a task would exceed the FOIA cost limit.

Normally we would explore how you might be able to refine your request so that it did not exceed the FOIA cost limit. However, in this case, we cannot see any scope for doing so.

We do not keep a central record of staff qualifications. Some acquired skills will be recorded within an employee's internal learning database. Other qualifications may be noted within employees' Civil Service Learning accounts. We would need to examine the qualifications held by these employees to determine whether any fall within the definitions provided in your request: legal skills, for example. We have established that this task would also exceed the FOIA cost limit.

If you are not satisfied with this reply you may request a review within two months by emailing foi.review@hmrc.gov.uk, or by writing to the address at the top right-hand side of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of an internal review you can [complain to the Information Commissioner's Office](#).

Yours sincerely,

HM Revenue and Customs