



Disclosure Team  
Ministry of Justice  
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London  
SW1H 9AJ

Faris Puri  
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data.access@Justice.gov.uk

5 May 2021

Dear Faris Puri

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 210412008**

Thank you for your request dated 12 April 2021 in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

*‘Dear Legal Aid Agency,*

***ESHAGHIAN & CO (TRADING STYLE FOR A & E LAW LIMITED) SRA ID:590806***

***Please could you inform me if the following Defence cost orders have been paid to the above-named firm., how much was paid in profits costs, disbursements and VAT for the individual cases by the national taxation team and the dates***

***1 Name Ardual Lukman      Defence cost order granted Romford Magistrates Court***

***Date of defense cost order Jan 2014 (approx)***

***2 Name Umran Nasser      Defence cost order granted Westminster Magistrates Court***

***Date of defense cost order June 2013 (approx)***

***3Name David John Clifford      Defence cost order granted St Albans Crown Court***

***Date of defense cost order November 2013 (approx)***

***4 Name Ah Kaun See      Defence cost order granted St Albans Crown Court***

***Date of defense cost order November 2013 (approx)***

***5 Name Naveed Mukhtar      Defence cost order granted Waltham forest Magistrates Court***

***Date of defense cost order April 2013 (approx)’***

You request has been handled under the FOIA.

I can neither confirm nor deny if the MoJ holds the information that you have requested. Under section 40(5B)(a)(i) of the FOIA we are not obliged to confirm or deny whether we hold information, if to do so would contravene any of the data protection principles set out in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation and section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018. .

FOI is a public disclosure regime, not a private regime. This means that any information disclosed under the FOIA by definition becomes available to the wider public. If any information were held, confirming this would be to the world at large. this would constitute the personal data of that individual. To disclose this fact would breach the General Data Protection Regulation and/or the Data Protection Act 2018 principles set out above. The fact section 40(5) has been cited, should not be taken as an indication that the information you have requested is held or is not held by the MoJ. This is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

### **Appeal Rights**

If you are not satisfied with this response you have the right to request an internal review by responding in writing to one of the addresses below within two months of the date of this response.

data.access@Justice.gov.uk

Disclosure Team, Ministry of Justice

You do have the right to ask the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to investigate any aspect of your complaint. However, please note that the ICO is likely to expect internal complaints procedures to have been exhausted before beginning their investigation.

Yours sincerely

**Information Governance**  
**Legal Aid Agency**