



Disclosure Team  
Ministry of Justice  
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12 July 2018

Dear Ms Phillips

### **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 180621015**

Thank you for your requests dated 21 June 2018 in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

**Please could you offer a breakdown of the financial interests in adoption agencies, whether private or public, held by every member at the MOJ.**

**Please could you offer a breakdown of the financial interests in children's homes or fostering agencies, whether private or public, held by every member at the Ministry of Justice.**

Your request has been handled under the FOIA.

Where more than one request is received for the same or similar information, section 5(2) of the FOI and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 allows public authorities to aggregate requests and respond to them together, I have therefore aggregated both of your requests dated 21 June 2018.

I am unable to confirm if the MoJ holds the information you have requested within the cost limit. Section 12(2) of the FOIA means public authorities are not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit for central government it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days determining whether the department holds the information.

In this instance to determine if all of the information requested is held, we would be required to cascade the request to Director level, then to line management level, across the whole department to ascertain whether any of the requested information is held. This is because there is only an obligation for staff to inform their line manager of their financial interests if it is thought to be a conflict of interest. This extensive task would exceed the appropriate limit. Consequently, we are not obliged to comply with your request.

You may wish to consider, for example, requesting this information for a specific directorate, and narrowing the request to either fostering or adoption agencies. The following link provides a list of MoJ agencies and public bodies, which can help you in your refinement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations#ministry-of-justice>. Please be aware that we

cannot guarantee at this stage that a refined request will fall within the FOIA cost limit, or that other exemptions will not apply.

### **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](mailto:data.access@justice.gov.uk)

Disclosure Team, Ministry of Justice, 10.38, 102 Petty France, London, SW1H 9AJ

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

Communication and Information Services