



## Department of Health

19/02/2016

FOI-1014490

Dear Katie M,

Thank you for your request of 30<sup>th</sup> January 2016 under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). Your exact request was:

*"Apologies for the delay in reply, to clarify monthly published payments on our website - the DoH departmental spending over £25000 see link:*

*<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dh-departmental-spending-over-25000-2015>*

*Additionally I appreciate it may breach section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act to identify the information I have requested for the time periods (April 2014-March 2015, April 2013-March 2014, April 2012-March 2013) - therefore I ask for only the data from the financial year April 2014-March 2015."*

This was in relation to your original request of 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015 (our ref: DE00000948573):

*Having already accessed the monthly published payments on your website, please can you provide me with further information of an itemised list of projects/contracts on health consultancy services/projects over £500 between financial years:*

*April 2014-March 2015*

*April 2013-March 2014*

*April 2012-March 2013*

*For each of these financial years, please also give a brief indication of what the payments were for (contract name).*

*For each of these contracts, please state the supplier name.*

*I refer to the term 'consultancy' with regards to 'consultancy on the health sector' in areas including but not limited to:*

- evaluating health care policy including their impact on health care delivery and spending*
- evaluating clinical practice including their impact on health care delivery and spending*
- projects aimed to improve the efficiency and sustainability of health care systems*
- health economics and outcomes research*
- measurement and understanding of patient reported outcomes*
- health technology assessments (appraising medical technology for NICE approval)*
- statistics in health and healthcare*

Total expenditure on consultancy services for the departmental group is disclosed in the Department's Annual Report and Accounts, which can be found on the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/department-of-health-annual-report-and-accounts-2014-to-2015>

The Department does not hold a detailed breakdown of consultancy spending in the NHS or its other group bodies, as it is not collated centrally. However, you may wish to contact any relevant NHS authority directly.

Contact details for clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) can be found on the following website :

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/ccg-details/>

Contact details for all other NHS authorities can be found on the NHS Choices website :

<http://www.nhs.uk/nhsengland/thenhs/about/pages/authoritiesandtrusts.aspx>

The Department does hold information in relation to departmental spend on consultancy services (i.e. for the Department of Health only and not the wider departmental group). However, to comply with your request as it is currently framed would exceed the cost limit as set out in Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 12(1) states that a public authority can refuse a request if complying with it would exceed the appropriate limit of £600 (which represents 3.5 working days). This represents the estimated cost of one person spending this time in determining whether the information is held, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

I should explain that the Department does not hold a further breakdown of consultancy spending by project/contract within its central business management system (BMS) and to retrieve the information you have requested would involve manually examining individual invoices to determine the total spend attributable to specific projects/contracts.

Please note, since January 2011, all current Department of Health contracts over £10k are published on the Government's Contract Finder database, which is accessible under the following internet link. Please note, this is an archived site, but the link below contains a further link to the new site.

<https://online.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/>

If you were to refine your request for information within more specific margins, for example, to a smaller timeframe, then we may be able to continue processing your request. However, I cannot guarantee that Section 12 or any other exemptions will not apply to any information requested.

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

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Head of the Freedom of Information Team  
Department of Health  
Room G18  
Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2NS

Email: [freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Department. The ICO can be contacted at:

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

Yours sincerely,

Alison Tingle

Freedom of Information Officer  
Department of Health

[freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk)