



Home Office

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[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

S Pinter

<mailto:request-248183-9852fc83@whatdotheyknow.com>

2 March 2015

Dear S Pinter,

Thank you for your e-mail of 14 January 2015, in which you ask:

*I have read about the Ministry of Justice's requirement for governmental departments to adhere to a Dispute Resolution Commitment:*

[http://www.adrgroup.co.uk/section/213/1/uk\\_government\\_firmly\\_backs\\_mediation](http://www.adrgroup.co.uk/section/213/1/uk_government_firmly_backs_mediation)  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/djanogly-more-efficient-dispute-resolution-needed>

*I therefore kindly ask for the following information:*

- 1. After a legal action has been brought against the Home Office, what procedures are in place to instigate and follow the Dispute Resolution Commitment?*
- 2. Which department within the Home Office considers whether to instigate and follow the Dispute Resolution Commitment against current legal actions brought against the Home Office?*
- 3. Could you provide me with the number of times the Dispute Resolution Commitment has been used in legal cases brought against the Home Office over the last year Jan 2014 to Dec 2014 month on month?*
- 4. Could you provide me with the number of legal actions brought against the Home Office over the last year Jan 2014 to Dec 2014 month on month?*
- 5. Could you provide me with the number of times the Dispute Resolution Commitment has been used in legal cases brought against the Home Office during Jan 2015 (this month)?*
- 6. Could you provide me with the number of legal actions brought against the Home Office during Jan 2015 (this month)?*

*7. Can you please provide me with guidance your staff operates to relating to the Dispute Resolution Commitment.*

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We are considering your request. Although the Act carries a presumption in favour of disclosure, it provides exemptions which may be used to withhold information in specified circumstances. Some of these exemptions, referred to as “qualified exemptions”, are subject to a public interest test. This test is used to balance the public interest in disclosure against the public interest in favour in withholding the information. The Act allows us to exceed the 20 working day response target where we need to consider the public interest fully.

The information you have requested is being considered under the exemption section 42 of the Act, which relate to legal professional privilege. This is a qualified exemption and to consider the public interest fully, we need to extend the 20 working day response period. We now aim to let you have a full response by 30 March 2015.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me

Yours sincerely

M Seedansingh

Information Rights Team