



Home Office

Information Management
Shared Services Directorate
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E-mail: Info.Access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk Website: www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Our Reference: 23658

Date: 29 August 2012

Dear Mr Whittman

Thank you for your email of 31 July 2012, in which you ask for details of any increases in pay or bonuses paid to any Senior Civil Servants actioned outside the normal pay round in the last three financial years ending in 31 March 2012. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act').

Under section 12 of the Act, the Home Office is not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

We have estimated that the cost of establishing what information we hold in relation to your request would exceed the cost limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. We are therefore unable to comply with it. To respond to your request we would need to examine the personal files of all Senior Civil Servants in post over the last 3 financial years. We estimate that it would take more than 24 hours work to establish what information we hold.

The £600 limit is based on work being carried out at a rate of £25 per hour, which equates to 24 hours of work per request. The cost of locating, retrieving and extracting information and preparing the response can be included in the costs for these purposes. The costs do not include considering whether any information is exempt from disclosure, overheads such as heating or lighting, or items such as photocopying or postage.

Unfortunately in this instance we do not think it will be possible to refine your request. Please note that if you simply break your request down into a series of similar smaller requests, we might still decline to answer it if the total cost exceeds £600.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the address below, quoting reference **23658**. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

Information Access Team
Home Office
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

e-mail: FOIRequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

During the independent review the department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. Should you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you will have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours sincerely

K Mulvaney
Information Access Team