



Department of

**Enterprise, Trade  
and Investment**

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Ms Ashley Davis

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I refer to your Freedom of Information request for details of the amount spent by the Department on external legal fees in the calendar years 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 (to date of your request) as follows:

- The names of the firms used
- The nature of works carried out by each firm
- The amount paid to each firm in each year
- If any of the firms are located in the Republic of Ireland

As you are aware, we were obliged to extend our normal 20 working day deadline for response in order to determine where the balance of public interest lay in the application of Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 43 relates to information which may prejudice commercial interests and exempts such information from disclosure if the public interest supports this.

This extension of our deadline for response was in accordance with Section 10(3) of the Act.

We can now provide all of the information requested and have attached details of the names of the firms, the nature of work carried out and amounts paid at **Annex A**. Our records show that one of the firms (O'Grady's Solicitors) is located within the Republic of Ireland.

I have also attached an Access to Information Factsheet which provides information on FOI procedures and some useful contact points.

Yours sincerely

Rozzi Langford (Mrs)  
**Information Management Unit**



**INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE**

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## Departmental spend on external legal fees 2011 - 2014

Names of firms used	Nature of works carried out by each firm	
Tughans Solicitors	Support for DETI for provision and oversight of financial assistance agreements	
King and Gowdy	Advice in relation to insolvency issues	
London Legal International	Advice in relation to insolvency issues	
TLT Solicitor	Advice in relation to insolvency issues	
Hewitt & Gilpin	Affidavit swearing fees	
Elliott Duffy Garrett	Advice in relation to insolvency issues	
O'Gradys Solicitors	Advice in relation to insolvency issues	
Mills Selig	Respondents fees	
Millar McCall Wylie	Respondents fees	
P Lasok	Titanic Signature Project	
SNR Denton	Experience of work in technical energy related matters	
Arthur Cox Ltd	Experience of work in technical energy related matters; Remote Broadband Services Contract; NI Broadband Improvement Project	
Year	Amount paid by Department to each firm in each of the years requested	
2011	Tughans	£80,506.88
	King and Gowdy	£15,065.41
	London Legal International	£217.09
	TLT Solicitor	£240
	Hewitt & Gilpin	£535
	SNR Denton	£431,292
	Arthur Cox Ltd	£131,780 + VAT
	P Lasok	£1,105+VAT
2012	Tughans	£5,407
	King and Gowdy	£7,476.99
	Elliott Duffy Garrett	£879.27
	O'Gradys Solicitors	£2,984.79
	Hewitt & Gilpin	£868
	Arthur Cox Ltd	£240518.17 + VAT
	P Lasok	£7,518.32+VAT
2013	Tughans	£1,633.27
	King and Gowdy	£1,398.10
	Elliott Duffy Garrett	£180
	Hewitt & Gilpin	£669
	Arthur Cox Ltd	£202,872
	P Lasok	£2,020.82+VAT
2014 (to the date of your request)	Mills Selig	£19,458.01
	Millar McCall Wylie	£10,920
	Arthur Cox Ltd	£13,295

## Access to Information Fact Sheet

**Note:** This leaflet gives an overview of some of the main provisions of the Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations and should not be regarded as a legal interpretation.

**1. What is the Freedom of Information Act?** The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 was fully implemented on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005, giving you the right to request information from public authorities. This allows you to access information about how the Department works, spends public money, reaches decisions, etc.

### 2. Information may also be obtained under:

- **The Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA)** - this allows you access to information held *about you* by both public and private organisations, and gives you the right to make sure it is correct.
- **The Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs)** - This legislation gives you access to any environmental information held by organisations that perform public functions.

**3. How do I get information about DETI under these Acts?** You can find information on the Department's website: <http://www.detini.gov.uk>. If you can't see what you're looking for you can contact us by email at [foi@detini.gov.uk](mailto:foi@detini.gov.uk) or write to us at:

**Information Management Unit  
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment  
Netherleigh, Massey Avenue  
Belfast BT4 2JP**

Please state your name, address, telephone number and specific details of the information you require.

**4. How long does it take to get information under the FOI Act?** Once a written request for information is received, we will respond promptly, and at any rate, within 20 working days. In certain circumstances a final response may be made outside this period where additional time is needed to determine whether or not disclosure would be in the public interest.

**5. Is there a cost?** This depends on a number of factors including the volume and complexity of material requested. Responses to enquiries that cost the department less than £600 to process<sup>i</sup> will be provided free of charge, although there may be a small charge for disbursements<sup>ii</sup>. The Department has a right to refuse an FOI request if the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds £600. We will not refuse a request for environmental information on the grounds of cost alone; however we have the right to charge a reasonable amount to cover processing costs. In all cases, we will notify you of any estimated costs before proceeding with the request.

**6. What happens if the information I want is not available?** The Department is not obliged to create or acquire information it does not already hold, but we will try to assist where possible. We may contact you about what relevant information we do hold, or may offer to transfer your request to another public authority that might help.

**7. Can I have any information at all?** The FOI Act and Environmental Information Regulations allow you access to much of the information held by public bodies. But some types of information are exempted, for example personal details about others, or where disclosure might prejudice a company's commercial interests.

**8. What if I am refused information?** We will tell you if information is being withheld and why. If you are unhappy with how we have handled your request you have the right to request an internal review. To request an internal review send an email or letter within 40 working days, to our **Head of Corporate Services** – see contact details at point 3 above.

We will reply to you within 20 working days. If you are not satisfied with the result of the internal review you may appeal to the Information Commissioner (details provided below at point 9). The Commissioner will normally expect an internal review to have been carried out prior to appeal.

**9. How do I find out more?** More information is available from office of the Information Commissioner at:

<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk">www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	01625 545 700
<b>Post:</b>	Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF	<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:ico.gsi.gov.uk">ico.gsi.gov.uk</a>
		<b>Fax:</b>	01625 524 510

#### **Re-use of Information**

Some information supplied to you under the FOI Act may continue to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs) can be also used in the UK for the purposes of news reporting without requiring permission. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

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<sup>i</sup> Includes the cost of locating, retrieving and extracting the information

<sup>ii</sup> Disbursements may include costs of photocopying, printing, postage etc