

Angus Files request-441466-865ad138@whatdotheyknow.com

Data Access & Compliance Unit Ministry of Justice 102 Petty France London SW1H 9AJ

data.access@justice.gsi.gov.uk

24 November 2017

Dear Mr Files

## Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 171028002

Thank you for your request dated 28 October 2017 in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

Your request has been handled under the FOIA. The MoJ does not hold any information in the scope of your request.

It may assist if I explain that our records are indexed according to the identity of the claimant (i.e. the person receiving legal aid). As the respondent in this case is anonymised, we have not been able to undertake a search of our databases on this occasion. However, we have conducted adequate and reasonable searches with the officials at the Legal Aid Agency who would be responsible for dealing with and managing applications/cases of this type. Following such checks being made, I can confirm that the information you have requested is not held.

The FOIA does not oblige a public authority to create information to answer a request if the requested information is not held. The duty is to only provide the recorded information held.

## **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.gsi.gov.uk

Data Access and Compliance Unit, 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

Information Governance Legal Aid Agency