



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Louis Goddard
request-527380-f9abccf8@whatdotheyknow.com
request-527486-80e4f3ae@whatdotheyknow.com

15 November 2018

Dear Mr Goddard,

Thank you for your email of 19 October 2018 requesting the following information:

1. *For each of the last 10 financial years, and the current financial year to 18.10.18 please state:*
 - *the number of legal disputes between your department and other central government departments and non-departmental government bodies.*

For each, please provide

- *A list of the court cases related to the dispute, with current status (resolved or ongoing) -Total time period of the dispute from bringing of proceedings until conclusion.*
- *Total cost in legal fees and related administration costs to your department*

2. *For each of the last 10 financial years, and the current financial year to 18.10.18 please supply the number of legal disputes between your department and a UK local council (including district, county, borough, unitary, parish).*

For each, please provide

- *A list of the court cases related to the dispute with current status (resolved or ongoing) -Total time period of the dispute from bringing of proceedings until conclusion.*
- *Total cost in legal fees and related administration costs to your department.*

3. *For each of the last 10 financial years, and the current financial year to 18.10.18 please state the number of legal disputes between your department and a regional mayoral department.*

For each, please provide

- *A list of the court cases related to the dispute, with current status (resolved or ongoing) -Total time period of the dispute from bringing of proceedings until conclusion.*
- *Total cost in legal fees and related administration costs to your department*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am writing to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because the Ministry of Defence does not hold this information centrally and to establish whether information in scope of your request is held across the department would involve

contacting every business area to ask them to search 10 years of files. Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Whilst the MOD has an obligation under section 16 to suggest ways in which you can refine your request to bring it within the cost limit, due to the broad nature of your request, we are unable to do this.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours faithfully,

MOD LEGAL ADVISERS