



Department of Health & Social Care

Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

www.gov.uk/dhsc

Mr Louis Goddard
request-527377-4a3a8f2c@whatdotheyknow.com

12 November 2018

Dear Mr Goddard,

Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1153227

Thank you for your request dated 19 October in which you asked the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC):

"I write to ask for information under the freedom of information act.

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"*

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

I have considered your request for information but I am unable to answer it without further clarification. Section 1(3) of the FOIA does not oblige us to answer requests where we require further clarification to identify and locate the information requested.

So that I provide you with the right information, please can you explain what you mean by 'legal disputes'. On receipt of this information I will continue to process your request.

Please be aware that we cannot guarantee at this stage that a clarified request will fall within the FOIA cost limit, or that other exemptions will not apply.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to appeal by asking for an internal review. This should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the address at the top of this letter, or the email address at the end of this letter.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may complain directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) who may decide to investigate your concerns. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already appealed our original response, and received our internal review response. The ICO will not usually investigate concerns where there has been an undue delay in bringing it to their attention. You should raise your concerns with them within three months of your last meaningful contact with us.

The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

<https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Yours sincerely,

Edward Franklyn
Freedom of Information Officer
E FreedomOfInformation@dh.gov.uk