



Home Office

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Louis Goddard
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16th November 2018

Dear Louis,

Thank you for your e-mail of 19th October 2018, in which you ask specifically:

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 yours 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 as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

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 may hold some or all of the information which you have requested but we have estimated that the cost of meeting 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. This information is not recorded centrally and cannot be definitively obtained without trawling through many thousands of files. The cost limit would therefore be exceeded by the cost of assessing whether this information is held.

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 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.

If you refine your request, so that it is more likely to fall under the cost limit (for example, by narrowing the timeframe), we will consider it again. However, as this information is not recorded centrally and cannot be definitively obtained without trawling through many thousands of files, it is likely that this request will exceed the cost limit regardless of how it is refined.

However, although we can't be sure that there have been no disputes between the Home Office and any other government department, local council or regional mayoral authorities without carrying out such research, we do not believe that there have been any such disputes that have reached the courts in the last ten years.

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 foirequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference 50706. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request would be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you were to remain dissatisfied after an internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the FOIA.

Yours sincerely

Home Office Legal Advisers, Government Legal Department
2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF