



Home Office

Shared Services
Directorate
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

020 7035 4848
(switchboard)
www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Britcits

[request-198997-
eccb0397@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-198997-eccb0397@whatdotheyknow.com)

July 2014

Dear BritCits,

Internal Review: 32077

I am writing further to your e-mail of 15 July 2014 in which you asked for an internal review of our response to your Freedom of Information (FOI) request as set out in **Annex A**.

I have now completed the review. I have examined all the relevant papers and have consulted the policy unit which provided the original response. I have considered whether the correct procedures were followed. I confirm that I was not involved in the initial handling of your request.

The Home Office was entitled, at the time of your request, to cite section 12(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to your request for a breakdown of the portion of fees paid to Treasury Solicitors for immigration and asylum cases. Invoices received in the Home Office regarding legal fees are not recorded by the type or matter of legal issue for which the advice and work was required. As such a manual search of our databases as well as our file records would be necessary in order to examine each invoice to clarify the class of work to which it related. This would take more than 24 hours.

In addition, the Home Office now notes that the response to the FOI request below (issued to you on 29 July) satisfies the request you made to the Home Office:
<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/219003/response/544238/attach/html/2/RM%2060%2014.docx.html>. As this information is in the public domain, and reasonably accessible to you, the Home Office is now exempt from providing you with this information by virtue of section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act. My conclusion is that the original response was correct and the response from the Treasury Solicitor's Department has made the information reasonably accessible to you.

Yours sincerely

N Rawell - Information Access Team - E-mail info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk -
Switchboard 020 7035 4848

Annex A

From: BritCits

15 July 2014

Dear Home Office,

Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.

I am writing to request an internal review of Home Office's handling of my FOI request 'Legal costs'.

It should not take the HO over 24 hours of man work to specify the fees or portion of fees paid to Treasury Solicitors for immigration and asylum cases (especially as T-Sol appears to have this information handy!). How incompetent are the HO staff and systems?!

A full history of my FOI request and all correspondence is available on the Internet at this address:
<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/l...>

Yours faithfully,

BritCits

Annex B

If you remain dissatisfied with the response to your Fol request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

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