



Ministry of Justice

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**Information Governance
Legal Aid Agency**
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www.gov.uk/legal-aid

Our Reference: 109036

Date: 23/01/17

Freedom of Information Request

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your email of 5 December 2016, in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

Please can you give me a breakdown of the monies paid on behalf of defendants Katrina Walsh and Sarah Williams in the murder case of Sadie Hartley.

Please give me a break down on the monies granted to each individual before and during the trial.

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I can confirm that the department holds information that you have asked for.

Please note that the MoJ does not grant legal aid costs during court proceedings. A legal aid representation order is granted before the provider can carry out work, and the cost is then calculated after all work is complete using the information on a number of factors, (for example, what stage the defendant pleaded, how much prosecution evidence was used, how many days of trial there were, and the nature of the offence.)

The calculation is automatically produced through Legal Aid Agency (LAA) IT systems with the parameters checked against other systems for accuracy held in HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) and provided in the courtroom, validated by the presiding judge. Payments are then made directly to the legal aid providers.

A calculator is available for this purpose for providers:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/graduated-fee-calculators>

The full set of regulations are available online for the public and professionals to view here: -

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/348086/legal-aid-crown-court-fee-guidance.pdf

The table below shows the amount of legal aid costs paid to represent Katrina Walsh and Sarah Williams in the case enquired about, correct as at the date of extraction from our systems (14/12/16). Please note that 'Pre-Trial costs' represent legal aid paid during the time these defendants were being questioned at the police station.

The LAA records data on legal aid awarded at the police station or magistrates court on a computer system which does not allow the LAA to uniquely identify individuals, as it records names but does not record full names, dates of birth or any other means to allow the conclusive identification of specific individuals at this stage of the justice process. Figures have therefore only been provided for these areas of the legal aid scheme when the LAA have been able to verify that such claims relate to the individuals named in your request.

Representation at a police station via legal aid is not means tested; everyone is entitled to free legal advice if they are questioned at a police station.

Katrina Walsh

	Solicitor	Barrister	Disbursement
Pre Trial costs	£193.06		£44.28
Trial costs	£107,574.07	£69,965.55	£5,515.85

Sarah Williams

	Solicitor	Barrister	Disbursement
Pre Trial costs	£2,093.42		£651.14
Trial costs	£97,258.75	£88,835.69	£15,640.68

The above costs include VAT and disbursements, which are expenses incurred which although paid by the LAA directly to the providers, are then paid to other parties involved in the case.

You can also find more information by reading the full text of the FOIA (available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/contents>).

You have the right to appeal our decision if you think it is incorrect. Details can be found in the 'How to Appeal' section attached at the end of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Information Governance

How to Appeal

Internal Review

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to an internal review. The handling of your request will be looked at by someone who was not responsible for the original case, and they will make a decision as to whether we answered your request correctly.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email **within two months of the date of this letter** to the Data Access and Compliance Unit at the following address:

Data Access and Compliance Unit (10.34),
Information & Communications Directorate,
Ministry of Justice,
102 Petty France,
London
SW1H 9AJ

E-mail: data.access@justice.gsi.gov.uk

Information Commissioner's Office

If you remain dissatisfied after an internal review decision, you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner's Office. The Commissioner is an independent regulator who has the power to direct us to respond to your request differently, if he considers that we have handled it incorrectly.

You can contact the Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Internet address: <http://www.ico.org.uk/>