

Enquiry Number - CFM 1-693313544

December 2014 Legal Costs

Request and Response:

Request

Dear Sirs,

I assume that legal costs have not been resolved in the judicial review of Winder & Ors -v - SMBC.

1. Please state the total vat-exclusive amount of any inter partes legal costs payable to the claimants/CPAG/their legal advisers to include solicitor's costs, disbursements and counsel's fees;
2. Please state the total vat-exclusive amount of any inter partes legal costs payable to the Intervener (Equality & Human Rights Commission) to include solicitor's costs, disbursements and counsel's fees;
3. It is said that SMBC represented itself in this case (save for Counsel) but for the avoidance of any doubt:
 - (a) Please confirm that no external firm of solicitors - whether Ashfords or anyone else - were involved in any way in this case and received payment. If external firms were used please state the total vat-exclusive costs and disbursements;
 - (b) Please state the total vat-exclusive costs for SMBC's senior and junior Counsel.

RESPONSE

Freedom of Information Request

I write further to your FOI request dated 2nd December 2014 and provide responses to each of your points in turn,

1. Please state the total vat-exclusive amount of any inter parties legal costs payable to the claimants/CPAG/their legal advisers to include solicitor's costs, disbursements and counsel's fees;

Response: Costs payable to CPAG for their clients legal costs were in full and final settlement and inclusive of solicitors costs, disbursements, counsels fees, interest and VAT, whilst VAT will be the responsibility of CPAG, it is calculated that the costs minus VAT equated to £45,833.33 .

2. Please state the total vat-exclusive amount of any inter parties legal costs payable to the Intervener (Equality & Human Rights Commission) to include solicitor's costs, disbursements and counsel's fees;

Response: Nil.

3. It is said that SMBC represented itself in this case (save for Counsel) but for the avoidance of any doubt:

(a) Please confirm that no external firm of solicitors - whether Ashford's or anyone else - were involved in any way in this case and received payment. If external firms were used please state the total vat-exclusive costs and disbursements;

Response: No external firm of solicitors was used.

(b) Please state the total vat-exclusive costs for SMBC's senior and junior Counsel.

Response: Total VAT exclusive costs for senior and junior counsel are £25,675.00

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your request and should be addressed to:

Information Management Unit,
Sandwell Council House,
Freeth Street,
Oldbury,
West Midlands
B69 3DE
Email -contact@sandwell.gov.uk

If you wish to receive further information in regards to this request or wish to submit a Freedom of Information Request please forward your request to xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx or Information Management Unit, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE.