



Department for Transport

John Hyde
request-551729-f4c9c1d0@whatdotheyknow.com

Ms I Craig
MARITIME DIRECTORATE
DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT
GREAT MINSTER HOUSE
33 HORSEFERRY ROAD
LONDON
SW1P 4DR

Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk

Our Ref: F0017094

11 March 2019

Dear John,

Freedom of Information Request F0017094

Thank you for your information request of 11 February 2019. You requested the following information in relation to the Department's terminated contract for the provision of additional maritime freight capacity in relation to Seaborne Freight:

From the moment when this contract was put up for tender, to the moment the contract with Seaborne was cancelled:

- How much does DfT estimate has been spent in legal costs? (please specify both external and internal legal costs)
- Which external law firms have been engaged to advise on this contract?
- How many in-house government lawyers have been assigned to working on this contract?

Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that some of the information you requested is not held by this Department.

While the Department does hold information on the cost of the professional advisers hired by the Department, it does not hold this information broken down by project or activity. The Department also does not have any recorded information on the number of DfT lawyers who worked on the contract.

The FOI Act gives any person legal right of access to recorded information which is held by a public authority, subject to certain exceptions. The Act does not require the Department to provide opinions or explanations, generate answers to questions, or create or obtain information it does not hold.

I can however confirm that the external law firm Slaughter & May were used by the Department as professional advisers on the procurement process and award of the contract.

If you are unhappy with the way the Department has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the Department's FOI Advice Team at:

Zone D/04
Ashdown House
Sedlescombe Road North
Hastings
East Sussex TN37 7GA
E-mail: FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Please send or copy any follow-up correspondence relating to this request to the FOI Advice Team to help ensure that it receives prompt attention. Please also remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,

Ms I Craig
Maritime Directorate

Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its FOI publication scheme.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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