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Peter Kellard

FOI Reference: 20067/1442

Email: request-85304-  
7c233730@whatdotheyknow.com

11 October 2011

Dear Mr Kellard

Thank you for letter of 20 September refining your earlier request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for details of salary and allowances broken down by Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) codes for Tier 2 (ICT) of the Points Based System. You specifically asked for information on used Certificates of Sponsorship (CoS) by month from the introduction of the PBS in 2008 by the top 25 sponsors and for this to show the minimum, average and maximum declared salaries and allowances.

I can confirm that we hold the revised information which you have requested but that unfortunately to locate and retrieve this information would still exceed the £600 cost limit specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. Although you have refined your previous request by dropping the 'mode' element of the request this has not reduced the time involved in extracting the required data by any significant amount.

It may help if I explain that to meet your most recent requests, numbers 19907 and 20067 we would need to run individual raw data reports for each separate part of the request. This would require us to run a report for each occupation (334) multiplied by the number of months from the beginning of scheme (35). Additionally, you have also asked for the data to show the top 25 sponsors meaning that the number of reports that we would need to run would need to be multiplied by a further 25.

Whilst I appreciate you are asking for an extension of existing analysis of Tier2 ICT used COS data I am afraid that we do not have the resource that is required to increase the report run to the required extent.

As I have already explained 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 and preparing the response 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 we might still decline to answer it if the total cost exceeds £600. We are able to provide you with an update of your previous request for information (FOI reference 19690) should this be of use to you.

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 the address below, quoting reference 20067. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

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email: [info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk).

As part of any internal review our handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours sincerely

Sandra Birkinshaw