



HM Revenue  
& Customs

Mr Conor McAllister

By email: request-633452-  
c872bd1d@whatdotheyknow.com

**Freedom of Information Team**  
S1715  
6 Floor  
Central Mail Unit  
Newcastle Upon Tyne  
NE98 1ZZ

**Email** [foi.request@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:foi.request@hmrc.gov.uk)

**Web** [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Date: 30 January 2020  
Our ref: FOI2020/00051

Dear Mr McAllister

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**

Thank you for your request, which was received on 12 January, for the following information:

“Please disclose the entire amount collected in tax that all US banks paid to the exchequer in the last decade?

Only the amounts generated on the UK mainland.”

We can confirm we hold information within scope of your request. However, we do not hold it in the format requested (taxes paid by US banks) and estimate that it would exceed the FOIA cost limit to provide it. The cost limit for central government equates to one person spending 3½ working days locating and extracting all of the information within scope of the request. Consequently, under section 12(1) of the FOIA, we are not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing it further.

To provide figures for the total taxes paid by US banks would require complex data matching across multiple HMRC data sources covering business ownership structures, different taxes and time periods. Given the complexity of this analysis, significant data checking and quality assurance of outputs would also be required.

We have established that this task would exceed the FOIA cost limit.

Normally we would explore with you how you might be able to narrow or refine your request so that it did not exceed the FOIA cost limit. However, in this case, we cannot see any scope for doing this. To produce the data requested for any specific time period, for example a given year, would involve complex analysis and data matching which would take several people at least six weeks.

### **Outside of the FOIA**

Although we are unable to answer your FOIA request, some relevant information is available. HMRC publishes statistics on tax receipts from the banking sector at this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/payee-and-corporation-tax-receipts-from-the-banking-sector>

If you are not satisfied with this reply you may request a review within two months by emailing [foi.review@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:foi.review@hmrc.gov.uk), or by writing to the address at the top right-hand side of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of an internal review you can [complain to the Information Commissioner's Office](#).

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team