

Mr Gary Tinker

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www.gov.uk/hm-treasury

21 December 2020

Ref: FOI2020/42887

Dear Mr Tinker

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your enquiry of 23 November 2020, which we have considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act).

You asked for the following information:

"HMRC have recently revealed that they engaged contractors who used "disguised remuneration" (DR) schemes as recently as November 2019.

Please provide the number of contractors engaged by HMT that are

- 1) currently using DR schemes*
- 2) have been found to be using DR schemes in previous years*
- 3) the number/name of companies that have supplied contractors using DR schemes"*

I can confirm that HM Treasury holds some information within the scope of your request.

There are currently no interim staff, otherwise defined as contingent labour, engaged by HM Treasury being paid through disguised remuneration schemes.

To determine whether other information in scope of your request is available would require extensive searches of individual procurements and their underlying records over an unspecified timeframe. We estimate that to search for and locate any information held would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit for central Government is set at £600. In this case, this represents the estimated cost of one person spending three and a half working days in determining whether the department holds the information.

Under section 12 of the FOI Act, departments are not obliged to comply with requests in these circumstances. It may be that if you were to amend your request, for example, by narrowing its focus to a specific timeframe, we may be able to comply with a future request. However, I cannot guarantee that this would be the case.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Information Rights Unit

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Email: foirequests@hmtreasury.gov.uk

It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

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The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF (or via their website at: <https://ico.org.uk>).