



Home Office

Detention and Escorting
Services
Immigration Enforcement
3rd Floor Apollo House
36 Wellesley Rd
CR9 3RR

By email:

[request-397437-
28e0913a@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-397437-28e0913a@whatdotheyknow.com)

8th February 2018

Dear Mr Bell,

REF: FOI 43336

Thank you for your email dated 27th March 2017 regarding paid activities in immigration detention. I apologise for the delay in providing you with this response. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A PIT letter was sent in relation to your request on 25th April 2017. Having considered the arguments, we conclude that the balance of the public interest lies in disclosing the information.

- “1. How many immigration detainees undertook paid work in from 1.1.2016-27.03.2017 in Harmondsworth and Colnbrook IRC***
- 2. How many hours of paid work immigration detainees undertook from 1.1.2016-27.03.2017 in Harmondsworth and Colnbrook IRC***
- 3. How much in salary was paid to immigration detainees from 1.1.2016-27.03.2017 in Harmondsworth and Colnbrook IRC***
- 4. How many immigration detainees lost their entitlement to paid work 1.1.2016-27.03.2017 in Harmondsworth and Colnbrook IRC”***

In accordance with the Detention Centre Rules 2001, all detained persons should be provided with an opportunity to participate in activities to meet, as far as possible, their recreational and intellectual needs and the relief of boredom. This includes the provision of voluntary paid activity opportunities.

There are two tiers of pay rate: routine activities will be paid at a rate of £1.00 per hour, and specified projects (as authorised by the Home Office Centre Manager) will be paid at a rate of £1.25 per hour.

The opportunity for detainees to engage in paid activities is entirely voluntary. It provides constructive and purposeful activity but is not a substitute for the work of trained staff. Detainees are not regarded as workers for the purposes of the National Minimum Wage Act because of the strictly limited circumstances of this activity. Parliament passed section 59 of the Immigration,

Asylum & Nationality Act 2006, which amended the National Minimum Wage Act to exempt detainees from the provisions of the Act.

The provisions for paid activities in immigration removal centres (IRC) are delivered in line with detention services order (DSO) 01/2013 available at the following link-
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/257748/paid-work.pdf

Service providers are not required to record data in relation to paid activities. The information you have requested, where available, can be found in Annex A.

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 foirequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference 43336. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request would be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you were to remain dissatisfied after an internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the FOIA.

Yours sincerely

Detention and Escorting Services
Immigration Enforcement
Home Office

Annex A

Harmondsworth:

	The number of detainees undertaking paid activities	Number of hours of paid activities undertaken	Total amount paid to detainees	The number of detainees who lost entitlement to paid activities *
2016	1360	127,209	£127,209	Not recorded
1 st January until 27 th March 2017	252	33,247	£33,247	Not recorded

Colnbrook:

	The number of detainees undertaking paid activities	Number of hours of paid activities undertaken	Total amount paid to detainees	The number of detainees who lost entitlement to paid activities *
2016	652	82,445	£82,445	Not recorded
1 st January until 27 th March 2017	111	18,982	£18,982	Not recorded

*The service provider for Colnbrook and Harmondsworth IRC (Mitie) does not record data on the number of detainees who lost their entitlement to paid activities).

This is provisional management information that has not been assured to the standard of Official Statistics.