



Scotland Office

Oifis na h-Albainn

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FOI DB/443

13 August 2012

Dear [REDACTED],

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST ABOUT JUDICIAL REVIEWS

Thank you for your email of 16 July 2012.

You made the following request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

I would like to request the following information for each year from 1991 to 2011 (or the most recent available year):

--The total number of judicial reviews faced by the Scotland office --A breakdown of judicial reviews by relevant category (e.g., immigration), if available --Number of government lawyers employed by the department -- Spending on government lawyers per year by the department --Number judicial review cases handled by outside legal chambers (if any) --Spending on outside legal chambers by year --Names of 10 outside legal chambers that received a) greatest level of spending; b) greatest number of judicial review cases

If any of these elements are not available, unclear or over the FOI cost limits, please send the remainder of the information and let me know how I could reframe the request to be clearer or within the cost limit.

The Scotland Office came into existence in 1999.

(1) There have been two application for judicial review against the Scotland Office.

(2) They related to the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc) Order 2007 and the Glasgow Commonwealth Games Act 2008 (Games Association Right) Order 2009.

(3) The Scotland Office does not employ any government lawyers.

(4) The Scotland Office's annual spending on government lawyers' pay costs is therefore nil.

(5) Advice on both applications for judicial review was provided by outside legal chambers.

(6) In requesting "spending on outside legal chambers by year" I assume that you are seeking the costs of the advice on applications for judicial review by external legal chambers. Information on legal costs is not held in a form that enables this part of your request to be answered.

(7) The following outside legal chambers provided the Scotland Office with advice on applications for judicial review: Terra Firma Chambers and 11 King's Bench Walk.

I hope you find this helpful.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made in relation to your request you may ask for an internal review. A request for an internal review should be addressed to:

FOI Officer
1 Melville Crescent
EDINBURGH
EH3 7HW

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 contact details are:

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

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]