



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

Telephone [MOD]: +44 (0)20 7218 9000
Facsimile [MOD]: +44 (0)20 7218 9451
E-mail: CLS-Group-Mailbox-Office@mod.uk

Ref. FOI2015/08582 (D/CLS/Sec/02/01/29)

4 November 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 5 October 2015 requesting the following information:

"I would like to know the amount of money your department spent on the services of external law firms and barristers over each of the last five years (years ending March 31). If this is not possible within the restrictions of the Freedom of Information Act, three years of data will suffice. If this is not possible, two years of data are acceptable. Please exclude legal services provided by the Government Legal Department. However, please include legal services that the Government Legal Department has outsourced to a third party."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested falls within the exemption under section 21 of the FOIA as it is reasonably accessible by other means which do not involve the FOIA.

It is not possible to provide a 'grand total figure' for the cost of all external legal advice across the MoD as figures are not collected centrally as finance is delegated across the Department. However the figure for the most significant areas of external legal expenditure for the last five years can be found in [Excel spreadsheet 9 of MoD's Defence Departmental Resources 2015](#). Please note that these figures include expenditure against services provided by the Government Legal Department (GLD). The work involved in providing this data without the GLD costs would exceed the time and cost limit under Section 12 of the FOIA.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.