

We were asked:

The amount of money the department spent on the services of external law firms and barristers over 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.

We replied:

- A1. Wales Office spend on external legal services from 2009-10 to 2012-13 is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act This is due to the information already being in the public domain and can be found in the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/leal-services>

The Departmental spend on external legal services in 2013-14 is £43,310. The final total may exceed this amount as we expect to receive further invoices for services provided in 2013-14.