



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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www.defra.gov.uk

[redacted]

**Your ref:** 176/13 FOI  
Request  
**Our ref:** RFI 5554  
**Date:** 3 July 2013

Dear [redacted]

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: EXTERNAL LEGAL ADVICE IN 2012**

Thank you for your request for information about external legal advice the department sought in 2012, which we received on 07 June. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Our central finance records show that the department spent £94,570.70 on legal services in 2012 excluding services from the Treasury Solicitors Department and services obtained by the Treasury Solicitors Department in relation to Defra matters. The reason for procuring these services is recorded as asset recovery under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, matters relating to the Agricultural Wages Board for England & Wales and legal expenses including subscriptions to legal societies. Suppliers are recorded on our finance systems as Pinsent Masons, Keystone Law, Simpkins Edwards LLP, Ross Owen Solicitors, Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP, Clive Lewis QC, Andrew Marshall, Mark Watson, Brendan McGurk, Wendy Outhwaite, Hannah Willcocks, Thomas Payne, Martin Lanchester, Nigal Hamilton and Martin Downs. No individual payment exceeded £25,000.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA, and in keeping with the government's Transparency Agenda, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you will now be published on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. Please note that this will not include your personal data.

I attach Annex A, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you.

I also attach Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

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

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]



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## **Annex B**

### **Complaints**

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 18 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Mike Kaye, Head of Information Standards, Area 4D, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: [requestforinfo@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:requestforinfo@defra.gsi.gov.uk)) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our [website](#).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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