

Our ref: 709,344

Your ref:

Mr [REDACTED]

via e-mail

mailto: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Group Financial Controller
Highways Agency
Woodlands
Bedford
MK41 7LW[REDACTED]
31st July 2014

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your e-mail Freedom of Information request regarding the Highways Agency's spend on ecology and archaeology consultants. However, I regret to inform you that we cannot answer your question.

The HA does not have any contracts or direct spend with ecology or archaeology consultants.

The Agency's projects will involve ecology and archaeology activities. However, these services will normally be procured by the Agency's first tier contractor. The Agency has a number of contracts with first tier technology and engineering companies who are able to supply these services by subcontracting to ecology or archaeology consultants.

Determining the exact spend by these first tier contractors would require a review of a large number of individual contracts and, in some cases, access to arrangements with subcontractors might not be possible. Either way, the resource required would exceed the FOI cost limit.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the legislation, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. We may therefore be publishing the information you requested, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context, via our website: <http://www.highways.gov.uk/>

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request you may ask for an internal review. Our internal review process is available at <http://www.highways.gov.uk/foiresponses/FOIresponses/8024.aspx>.

If you require a print copy, please phone the Highways Agency Information Line on 0300 123 5000; or e-mail ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk. You should contact me if you wish to complain.

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 Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House

[Type text]

Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box used to redact a signature.