



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Legal Directorate
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Website: www.gov.uk/fco

22 August 2014

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST REF: 0641-14

Thank you for your email of 26 June 2014 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You wrote:

To ask how much the Department spent in total on external legal advice in 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14

The top ten payments in each year, plus to whom it was paid and for what reason

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

Under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. The information you requested is available from [the GOV.UK website](http://the.gov.uk).

You asked for the top ten payments for each year and to whom the money was paid and for what reason. I am afraid as we do not hold this information centrally. As you may know, litigation can take many months or even years and Counsel tend to bill their work by fee notes sent periodically. To prepare a list of the top ten fee notes we received in each of the four years is not possible as we do not retain fee notes on file, particularly where these are addressed to Treasury Solicitors. The overwhelming majority of the legal spend referred to in paragraph 3 was incurred for the purpose of litigation matters.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless it is exempt. The information we have supplied to you may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

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Yours sincerely,

Legal Directorate



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