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| [REDACTED] | Area G-GOAGVictoria QuayEdinburgh EH6 6QQDate 27 May 2015 |

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email of 05 May 2015 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) in which you asked the following:

1. Could you please tell me how many civil servants in the department have gone on secondment to the private in every one of the five financial years since 2010/11? Of this number could you please tell how many have returned to the civil service following their secondment?

2. Could you please also provide me with the information that shows how many secondees have joined the department from the private sector in every one of the five financial years since 2010/11? And of this number, could you please tell me how many have returned to the civil service following their secondment?

3. Could you please also tell me the number of civil servants working in the department who have been employed for the following time periods, including a breakdown of their job grade?

o   < 6 months

o   >6 months and < 1 year

o   >1 year and <2 years

o   >2 years and <3 years

o   >3 years and <4 years

o   >4 years and <5 years

o   >5 years <10 years

o   >10 years”

Having completed our search for information I can confirm that we do not hold the information you have requested in relation to civil servants as set out in paragraph 1. The Office of the Advocate General (OAG) does not directly employ staff. All our staff are on secondment from other Government departments, primarily the Scottish Government and the Ministry of Justice. Therefore, we do not hold any information relating to civil servants moving to the private sector on secondment nor whether they returned to the civil service after any secondment. Nor do we hold information relating to the length of time staff have been employed in the department. Any requests regarding these questions should be made to the Scottish Government or the Ministry of Justice. Their email addresses for FOI requests are:

ceu@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

<https://www.justice.gov.uk/information-access-rights/foi-requests/make-an-foi-request-online>

As regards your request at paragraph 2, the number of secondees who joined OAG for the five financial years since 2010/11 were as follows:

2010/11 0

2011/12 0

2012/13 0

2013/14 2

2014/15 3

We do not hold any information as to where secondees were employed after their secondment.

As regards your question in paragraph 3, we have some information relating to length of employment, however we only hold information from March 2013.

Staff currently working in OAG who have been in the department for:

More than 2 years

Senior Civil Servants(SCS) 4

Band C2 7

Band C1 9

Grade B2 1

Grade A4 1

Grade A3 5

Between 1 and 2 years

SCS 1

C1 3

B3 2

A3 2

6 months – 1 year:

C2 1

C1 6

B2 1

Less than 6 months

C1 2

Legal trainees 3

Total number of staff in OAG as at 18 May 2015 is 48

 You may, if dissatisfied with the treatment of your request, ask the Office of the Advocate General to conduct an internal review of its decision.  The internal review will be conducted by someone other than the person who took the initial decision.  Requests for internal review should be addressed to the Information Officer, Office the Advocate General, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

If following the internal review you remain dissatisfied with the treatment of your request by OAG then you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner, whose address is Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.  Details of the complaints procedure can be found here:

<http://www.ico.gov.uk/complaints/freedom_of_information.aspx>

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]