

Freedom of Information Act 2000: fruitless payments

Thank you for your Freedom of Information enquiry of 28 November 2016.

You asked for the following information:

"1. The number of fruitless payments in excess of £30,000 made by or paid for by your department in the following finance years: 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16.

2. What each payment was for

3. The value of each payment

4. The reason why the payment was made

5. The reason why the payment was classified as fruitless

6. Whether any disciplinary action was taken as a result of the payment (If there was any disciplinary action, please specify what the action was)"

I can confirm that HM Treasury does hold information within the scope of your request.

Details of losses and special payments are reported in the 'Parliamentary Accountability Disclosures' section on page 89 of the 2015-16 Annual Reports and Accounts, which can be downloaded from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hm-treasury-annual-report-and-accounts-2015-to-2016>

There were no fruitless payments in 2013-14 and 2014-15.

There are two payments that meet the above criteria, the first a constructive loss of £120,000, the second a special payment of £278, 379, both disclosed in 2015-16.

These payments are regarded as fruitless since HM Treasury has derived no benefit from the project. No disciplinary action has been taken against any member of staff in relation to these payments.

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

Information Rights Unit