

FOI Release

Information released under the Freedom of Information Act

Title: Annual Cost of the FE Commissioner's Office

Date of release: 23 March 2015

Information request

The annual cost of the FE Commissioner's office (how much did it cost over the last calendar and also the last academic year)? Could you provide a breakdown of the costs?

Also, how many staff are there in his office? How many have been taken on in the last six months/ year? Also, how much did the FE Commissioner's office cost to launch?

Information released

The FE Commissioner's office is resourced by four existing BIS Staff – Since the launch of the FE Commissioner's office there has been 0.8 of a Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Executive Officer and 1.0 Higher Executive Officer (FTE) in post . An additional 0.8 (FTE) Executive Officer was internally transferred to join the FE Commissioner's office in September 2014. A further 0.8 HEO was internally transferred to the office in January 2015. The Commissioner's office supports the work of the FE commissioner and advisers, including overseeing the arrangements for interventions, and managing the process by which advice goes to ministers.

The average monthly salary for a Higher Executive Officer (FTE) is £3,018 and for a (FTE) Executive Officer average monthly salary is £2,340. Based on these average salaries, the cost for the resourcing of the FE Commissioner's Office for financial year 2014/15 is expected to be around £80,000 and is projected to be around £100,000 for financial year 2015/16. For the current academic year (14/15) the cost for the resourcing of the FE Commissioner's Office is expected to be around £90,000.

The launch of the FE Commissioners Office was resourced by the reprioritising of existing BIS staff so no additional costs were incurred.

Some information constitutes personal data and has been withheld. Section 40 of the Act provides an absolute exemption for personal data which then falls to be

dealt with under the Data Protection Act. Personal data of third parties can only be disclosed in accordance with the data protection principles. In particular, the first data protection principle requires that disclosure must be fair and lawful and must comply with one of the conditions in Schedule 2 of the Data Protection Act. We do not think that it is fair to release the names of junior members of staff or third parties and do not think that any of the relevant conditions apply.