



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Ref. FOI2016/00716 (D/CLS/Sec/02/01/31)

[e-mail to [REDACTED]]

15 February 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 18 January 2016 requesting the following information:

1. *How much did your organisation spend on legal fees in the financial year 2015?*
2. *Do you have a panel of preferred legal providers? If yes, what year was this panel appointed?*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

Most of the information you have requested at question 1 falls within the exemption under section 21 of the FOIA as it is reasonably accessible by other means which do not involve the FOIA.

It is not possible to provide a 'grand total figure' for the cost of all external legal advice across the MoD as figures are not collected centrally as finance is delegated across the Department. However the figure for the most significant areas of external legal expenditure for FY 2014-15 can be found in [Excel spreadsheet 9 of MoD's Defence Departmental Resources 2015](#). Additionally there was approximately £253K spent by MOD's Executive Agencies on legal work.

In response to question 2, the MOD uses Government frameworks when appointing external legal firms. MOD currently make use of two frameworks when there is a requirement to appoint an external firm. The two frameworks are:

- HOCS-CM800014 which was set up on 10 January 2016;
- RM919 which was set up 01 February 2013.

The suppliers for the HOCS-CM800014 framework are:

- Addleshaw Goddard LLP
- Burges Salmon LLP

- Dentons UKMEA LLP
- Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP
- Herbert Smith Freehills LLP
- Linklaters LLP
- Mills & Reeve LLP
- Shepherd & Wedderburn LLP
- Simmons & Simmons LLP
- Wragge Lawrence Graham & Co LLP

For the RM919 framework, a list of suppliers can be found here <http://ccs-agreements.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/contracts/rm919>.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area of the letter.