

2 August 2016

Ref: FOI2016/16000

## Freedom of Information Act 2000: Payments to the European Commission and Parliament

Thank you for your Freedom of Information enquiry of 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016, which we received on 5<sup>th</sup> July.

You asked for the following information:

### ***“Payments from the British Government to the European Union and European Parliament***

- 1. What is the weekly amount that is paid by the UK Government to the European Commission and/or European Union?*
- 2. Is there a separate payment made to the European Parliament in Brussels and if so how much is it?*
- 3. Regarding both payments, how is the payment made and exactly to which body or bodies of the European Union?*
- 4. Is actual payment made that leaves the UK?*
- 5. Are there any other payments paid by the UK Government to the European Commission and/or the European Union and on different times during the year?*
- 6. If so, how much are these payments and again how are the payments made and exactly to which body or bodies of the European Union?*

### ***Payments from the European Union and European Parliament to the British Government***

- 7. What is the amount in rebates etc. that the European Commission and/or European Union pay back to the British Government?*

8. *What are the amounts paid during the year and over what time intervals?*
9. *Regarding these payments, how are the payment made and exactly from which department of the European Commission and/or European Union and to which UK Government Department?"*

I can confirm that HM Treasury does hold some information within the scope of your request. Information relevant to your request has been published. The Act does not oblige public authorities to reissue information that is already published (section 21), however, to be helpful, we have included links to this and summarised below.

We do not make weekly contributions to the EU Budget, but do make two contributions per month which will vary from month to month.

The UK's gross payments to the EU are automatically corrected to take account of our rebate, meaning that the UK only pays over the post-rebate amount. Over 2010-14, the UK's annual post-rebate contribution averaged £12.7 billion before taking into account receipts from the EU. These are based on amounts established annually under the Own Resources Decision.

Further explanation of these figures can be found in pages 67-69 of HM Treasury's analysis into the economic impact of EU membership, available at the following link:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/517415/treasury\\_analysis\\_economic\\_impact\\_of\\_eu\\_membership\\_web.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/517415/treasury_analysis_economic_impact_of_eu_membership_web.pdf)

No separate payments are made to the European Parliament.

UK contributions to the EU are paid into a European Commission bank account held in the UK and administered on its behalf by HM Treasury.

HM Treasury does not hold information on other UK payments to the European Commission or European Union. Other Government departments may make payments to the European Commission outside of these times of the year for specific purposes.

Details of receipts paid to the UK from the EU Budget can also be found at the above link. The rebate is not "paid back" from the European Commission, but automatically deducted.

Receipts are paid from the EU Budget by the European Commission throughout the year. These receipts are paid to a number of Government Departments and also to private sector bodies. You may find the following report from the National Audit Office a helpful summary:

<https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Financial-Management-of-the-European-Union-budget-in-2014-a-briefing-for-the-Committee-of-Public-Accounts.pdf>

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

Information Rights Unit