



# Ministry of Defence

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Ref. FOI2015/01919 (D/CLS/Sec/02/01/25)

[REDACTED]

18 March 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 17 February 2015 requesting the following information:

- *The amount spent by your council on external legal advice each year since 2010.*
- *The annual salary of your council's chief legal officer for each year since 2010.*

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

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

Some of the information you have requested 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 2013/2014 is approximately £12M (see MoD's [Finance Bulletin \(Table 1.03.09\)](#)). It should be noted that because of the way the figures are collected this figure could be higher. For the years 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 the information can be found in answer to [Parliamentary Question 157644](#) which was answered on 14 May 2013.

For the second question, the salary range for the MoD's Director of Central Legal Services falls between £95,000-£99,999. This salary range hasn't changed since 2010.

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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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,

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