



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Ref. FOI2015/03970 (D/CLS/Sec/02/01/28)

[REDACTED]

21 May 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 21 April 2015 requesting the following information:

“Under the FOI Act, could you provide details of the amount the MoD spent on external lawyers in the Treasury Solicitors Department, barristers and private legal work in the last two years. I would like to know how many lawyers are employed by the MoD and details of the number of legal actions brought against the MoD in the last two years. I would like to know how many legal cases have been brought against the MoD under human rights legislation.”

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.

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 the last two years can be found in MoD’s [Finance Bulletin \(Table 1.03.09\)](#).

The number of lawyers employed by the MoD, as at 1 April 2015 was:

Civilian = 69 (plus 16 patent attorneys)
Service = 219

The MoD does not hold any information regarding the number of legal actions brought against us in the last two years as we do not record this, nor is there any information recorded regarding whether any cases have been brought against the MoD under human rights legislation.

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 solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.