

29 November 2016

Ref: FOI2016/21584

Freedom of Information Act 2000: HM Treasury legal spend

Thank you for your Freedom of Information enquiry of 12 October 2016, and your subsequent clarification of 13 October.

You asked for the following information:

"I would like to know the amount of money your department spent on the services of external law firms and barristers for the year ending March 31st 2016.

Please exclude legal services provided by the Government Legal Department. However, please include legal services that the Government Legal Department has outsourced to a third party.

You can approximate spending levels, i.e. if you are not able to provide the exact figures, you can give us your best estimate."

And

"Further to this request please note that the figure we have requested should exclude spending by your department on the GLD (Government Legal Department) and its predecessor the TSoL (Treasury Solicitor's Department)."

I can confirm that HM Treasury does hold information within the scope of your request.

The amount the department spent on the services of external law firms and barristers in the financial year 2015-16 was £5,248,250.89. All inter-governmental spend and their agencies have been excluded from the figure.

You may be interested to know that spend on the services of external law firms and barristers in the last two financial years was £8,161,711 (2014-15) and £4,092,023 (2013-14).

We do not hold information on services that the Government Legal Department (GLD) have outsourced to third parties. You may wish to contact the GLD separately at:

FOI@governmentlegal.gov.uk

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

Information Rights Unit