



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Ref. FOI2015/04849 (D/CLS/Sec/02/01/26)

[REDACTED]

29 June 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 3 June 2015 requesting the following information:

- 1. What is the total legal spend going through panels/preferred suppliers for 2013/2014/2015 (2015 if available)*
- 2. Who in your organisation is responsible for managing external legal spend*
- 3. Do you use external consultants to advise on how to manage your legal spend more effectively. If yes, who and what have you spent with them in the last 12 months*

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.

In answer to question 1, 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 years 2012-13 and 2013-14 can be found in MoD's [Finance Bulletin \(Table 1.03.09\)](#). The figures are not yet available for 2014-15 but are likely to be published on the MoD's website by the end of this year.

In answer to question 2, there is no one person responsible for managing MoD's external legal spend. As explained above, finance is delegated and it is therefore down to each individual budget area to manage their own spend in this area.

In answer to question 3, the MoD does not use external consultants to advise on how to manage legal spend more effectively.

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.