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| REDACTED | Area G-GOAGVictoria QuayEdinburgh EH6 6QQDate 22.09.16 |

Dear REDACTED

**Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email of 25 August 2016 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).  You asked:

Were the Department’s former Special Advisers, who had been reappointed after the 2015 General Election and left Government in or after July this year, awarded six months severance pay as part of their severance package?

What were the terms of the severance package for Special Advisers appointed after the 2015 General Election?

Did these terms for such individuals change? If so, how?

What was the proposed total cost of the severance package for Special Advisers before the resignation of Prime Minister David Cameron?

What was the proposed total cost of the severance package for Special Advisers after the resignation of Prime Minister David Cameron?

Has the department agreed to offer Special Advisers a severance package which has a value over and above their contractual entitlement? If so, what are the respective financial totals?

We do not hold this information as the Advocate General for Scotland does not have a Special Adviser - the list of Spcial Advisers assigned to Ministers is published by the Cabinet Office.

You may, if dissatisfied with the treatment of your request, ask the Office of the Advocate General to conduct an internal review of its decision.  The internal review will be conducted by someone other than the person who took the initial decision.  Requests for internal review should be addressed to the Information Officer, Office the Advocate General, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

If following the internal review you remain dissatisfied with the treatment of your request by OAG then you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner, whose address is Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.  Details of the complaints procedure can be found here:

<http://www.ico.gov.uk/complaints/freedom_of_information.aspx>

Yours sincerely

REDACTED