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Ref: FOI2017-04730 (02-01-43)



22 June 2017

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 18 April 2017 requesting the following information:

*“1. The total legal spend for the Ministry of Defence in 2016 financial year.
The total legal spend for the Ministry of Defence in 2015 financial year.
The total legal spend for the Ministry of Defence in 2014 financial year.*

2. The amount spent on each individual firm instructed by the for 2016, 2015, 2014. Where possible, please break this down by fees for each individual matter the firm instructed on.

3. How many lawyers do you have seconded to the in-house legal Ministry of Defence legal team from external firms for 2016, 2015, 2014.

4. How many full-time solicitors the Ministry of Defence employs for 2016, 2015, 2014 and the amount spent on the in-house legal team.”

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 information in scope of your request is held. My sincere apologies for the long delay in responding, but legal costs information isn't held centrally in an easily accessible format and required considerable manipulation to provide the information you requested.

Q1. The legal spend for FY 2013/14, FY 2014/15 & FY 2015/16 is as follows:

Total Legal Expenditure

2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
£53,076,952	£57,629,825	£73,211,916

Q2. Information is provided in the enclosed workbook showing expenditure made for the financial years 13/14, 14/15 and 15/16. There is a difference between the figures we are providing for questions 1 and 2 and the overall figures which are reported in the Annual Report and Accounts (ARAc). This is because we have extracted information for all transactions processed in-year

against the legal expenditure Resource Account Codes. If any of these transactions were later identified as being mis-booked they would have been removed from the final totals that were published in the ARAc.

Additionally, another reason why these totals do not match those published in the ARAc is related to the way that the ARAc is calculated. Using an accruals method you can include bill payments that are processed outside of the financial year being reported upon. The process we have used selects only bills where the bill payment date is in the financial year being reported upon, but which in accounting terms may have been accounted for in a previous, or later financial year.

Please note that it is not possible to break down transactions to companies to individual matters as this information is not held centrally.

Q3. The information you have requested regarding the number of external lawyers seconded to the MOD is:

	Numbers of staff		
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Staff on GLD payroll	0	57	58
Staff on Secondment from GLD	0	7	6

Q4. The number of lawyers the MOD employs and their costs can be found below. Please note we have included barristers as well as 'solicitors' in these figures.

	Numbers of staff		
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Army	122	94	77
Navy	17	18	22
RAF	42	53	43
Service Prosecution Authority (SPA)	26	24	34
TOTAL	207	189	176

	Cost of staff (£M)		
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Army	12.0	9.5	8.8
Navy	1.6	1.9	2.3
RAF	2.8	3.2	2.7
Service Prosecution Authority (SPA)	3.3	3.8	3.9
TOTAL	19.6	18.4	17.7

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, Ground 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,

CENTRAL LEGAL SERVICES