



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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15 January 2018

Dear ,

Thank you for your email of 11 October 2017 requesting the following information:

1. *I am looking for the total legal spend for the Ministry of Defence in the 2016/17 financial year.*
2. *The amount spent on each individual law firm instructed by the MOD for the 2016/17 financial year.*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I apologise for the length of time it has taken to produce this response.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that the information in scope of your request is held.

Q1. The total legal spend for FY2016/17:

Grand Total (all costs recorded against 'legal' RACs)	£71,092,822
Legal Firms only	£6,573,879
Other expenditure booked against 'legal' RACs	£64,518,943

The figure in the first line includes all expenditure recorded against the 'legal' Resource Accounting Codes (RACs) between the period 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017, excluding that of the MoD's claims handlers. The figure includes sums attributable to expenditure by the Service Prosecuting Authority and the Single Service legal branches. Payments for legal services provided by government lawyers are also included in the grand total.

The figure in the second line reflects payments to legal firms and may include costs awarded by the courts against the Department. The figure may also include disbursements of legal firms. It does not include payments in respect of barristers' fees or in respect of the Government's own lawyers, as these are not legal firms. (Please note that the costs of the latter were in fact included in previous figures sent to you under the category "legal firms" but on reflection we thought it was more accurate not to include them here as they are not actually "legal firms" – but expenditure attributable to in-house lawyers is included in the third line figure – see below).

The figure in the third line includes expenditure recorded against individuals and companies providing amongst other things technical, professional, and scientific services, which could, for example, include expert advice in connection with legal matters. It also includes payments to other entities to which legal costs may be paid such as HM Court & Tribunal Service and for the Government's own in-house lawyers.

Q2. Information is provided in the enclosed spreadsheet showing expenditure made for the financial year 2016/17 to legal firms.

This reflects payments to individual firms which, as explained above, may include payments which may have been awarded by the court against the Department as costs settlements as well as disbursements. Therefore, the spreadsheet also shows expenditure to firms which is not restricted to legal fees.

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.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request 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 should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours faithfully,

MOD Legal Advisers

Companies	Grand Total
A LEEDS DAY SOLICITORS	£ 4,458
ADDLESHAW GODDARD LLP	£ 188,376
AEGIS LEGAL LIMITED	£ 4,994
ALLEN & OVERY LLP	£ 1,541
AMELANS SOLICITORS	£ 4,370
AMV LAW LIMITED	£ 8,148
ANTONIS K KARAS LLC	£ 961
BALFOUR + MANSON LLP	£ 22,500
BCL BURTON COPELAND	£ 83
BEACHCROFTS LLP	£ 9,159
BEETZ & PARTNER	£ 340
BENDALL & SONS	£ 8,914
BERRYMANS LACE MAWER LLP	£ 99,957
BIRD + LOVIBOND SOLICITORS	£ 68,379
BLAKE LAPHORN	£ 2,500
BLAKE MORGAN LLP	£ 6,325
BOND DICKINSON LLP	£ 264
BOWER & BAILEY LLP	£ 20,000
BROWNE JACOBSON LLP	£ 750
BURGES SALMON LLP	£ 621,378
CHRYSSES DEMETRIADES & CO LLC	£ 17,857
CLARKE WILLMOTT LLP	£ 14,540
CLYDE & CO LLP	£ 12,500
COODES LLP	£ 5,560
CORDELL & CO SOLICITORS	£ 15,853
CORKERBINNING	£ 97,035
CROMBIE WILKINSON SOLICITORS LLP	£ 14,303
D J MACKAY AND PARTNERS LLP	£ 5,815
DAC BEACHCROFT CLAIMS LIMITED	£ 36,413
DAVITT JONES BOULD LTD	£ 9,888
DENTONS UKMEA LLP	£ 40,843
DEVONSHIRES SOLICITORS	£ 329,479
DIGBY BROWN LLP	£ 12,400
DLG LEGAL SERVICES LIMITED	£ 5,355
DWF LLP	£ 3,375
EAD SOLICITORS LLP	£ 3,800
EDWARDS PATENT SERVICES LTD	£ 77
ELLISONS SOLICITORS	£ 33,757
EVERSHEDS LLP	£ 6,780
FALKLAND ISLANDS LEGAL SERVICES LTD	£ 1,740
FETHERSTONHAUGH & CO	£ 4,153
FLINT BISHOP SOLICITORS	£ 825
FORSTER DEAN LIMITED	£ 19,100
FRANCIS HANNA & CO SOLICITORS	£ 5,626
FRESHFIELDS BRUCKHAUS DERINGER LLP	£ 221,650
GARD & CO SOLICITORS	£ 1,000
GIRLINGS PERSONAL INJURY CLAIMS LIMITED	£ 9,758
GRAYSONS SOLICITORS	£ 5,251
GREAVES BREWSTER	£ 5,822

HAMILTON HARRISON & MATHEWS	£	26,828
HARDING EVANS LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP	£	5,000
HARRIS FOWLER LTD	£	9,179
HENRY GOH & CO SDN BHD	£	3,234
HERBERT SMITH FREEHILLS LLP	£	637,903
HILARY MEREDITH SOLICITORS LIMITED	£	8,388
HORWICH FARRELLY	£	31,384
HOWES PERCIVAL LLP	£	2,492
HUTCHINSON THOMAS	£	23,480
INFOLAW LIMITED	£	750
IRVINE THANVI NATAS SOLICITORS	£	9,292
JOHNSONS SOLICITORS	£	12,147
KASZNAR LEONARDOS ADVOGADOS	£	2,051
KAWAGUTI & PARTNERS	£	3,400
KEATING CHAMBERS SERVICE COMPANY LIMITED	£	2,500
Keltie LLP	£	29,824
KERR BROWN	£	3,498
KILPATRICK TOWNSEND & STOCKTON LLP	£	34,434
KINGSLEY NAPLEY LLP	£	44,380
LANGLEYS SOLICITORS LLP	£	8,110
LESTER ALDRIDGE LLP	£	49,481
LINKLATERS LLP	£	852,025
LYONS DAVIDSON LIMITED	£	4,711
MAMAS HJI CHRISTOFIS & ASSOCIATES LLC	£	644
MCCARTAN TURKINGTON BREEN SOLICITORS	£	30,471
MEYER-KOERING	£	2,846
MICHELMORES LLP	£	3,936
MILLS & REEVE LLP	£	1,407,044
MOON BEEVER	£	135,592
MORRISH SOLICITORS LLP	£	9,815
MORTON FRASER LLP	£	272,798
MTA SOLICITORS LLP	£	22,000
NAKAMURA & PARTNERS	£	2,478
NEALE TURK LLP	£	750
NEIL HUDGELL LIMITED	£	4,375
NEXUS SOLICITORS LIMITED	£	2,469
NIKIFOROU NESTORAS A	£	2,273
OLIVER & CO SOLICITORS	£	436
ONSAGERS AS	£	1,469
P TSANGARIS & ASSOCIATES LLC	£	328
PARABIS LAW LLP	£	8,250
PINSENT MASONS LLP	£	44,248
PUBLIC INTEREST LAWYERS	£	39,249
QC LAW FIRM	£	59,931
RAC LEGAL SERVICES - FLEET CLAIMS	£	6,971
REMFREY & SAGER	£	838
RUSSELLWORTH	£	5,180
SABA & CO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY S.A.L. (OFFSHORE)	£	31,451
SANYOU INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AGENCY LTD	£	2,346
SHEPHERD AND WEDDERBURN LLP	£	3,675

SHOOSMITHS LLP	£	132,350
SIMMONS & SIMMONS LLP	£	17,334
SIMONS MUIRHEAD & BURTON LLP	£	69,258
SLATER & GORDON (UK) LLP	£	21,814
SOLEX LEGAL SERVICES LTD	£	1,396
Spencers Solicitors Limited	£	30,000
SPIER KRAFFELD MEISSNER	£	16,621
STEWARTS SOLICITORS	£	5,027
TAYLOR STREET SOLICITORS LLP	£	1,120
THOMPSONS SOLICITORS	£	102,513
THORNEYCROFT SOLICITORS LIMITED	£	7,832
TREANORS SOLICITORS LIMITED	£	6,029
TUCKERS SOLICITORS	£	4,114
VEALE WASHBROUGH VIZARDS LLP	£	27,760
WACE MORGAN LTD	£	20
WALKER MORRIS LLP	£	41,783
WILKINS SOLICITORS LLP	£	3,528
WILMERHALE	£	164,249
ZACCO	£	826
Grand Total	£	6,573,879