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| [REDACTED] | Area G-G  OAG  Victoria Quay  Edinburgh EH6 6QQ  29 June 2017 |

[REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email of 31 May 2017 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).  You asked:

“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 2017.

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.

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).”

Having concluded our search for information, I can now tell you that the Office of the Advocate General’s spend in 2016-2017 for external Law services was £29,265.00.

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]