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| [REDACTED] | Area GG SouthOAGVictoria QuayEdinburgh EH6 6QQDate 27 November 2017 |

Dear [REDACTED]

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

Thank you for your email sent to the Office of the Advocate General on 10 November 2017.

You asked for the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000;

*1.     How many non-disclosure agreements (NDAs), confidentiality agreements (CDAs), or special severance payments with confidentiality clauses, or any other “gagging orders” have been issued by your department following a complaint of sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking or sexual discrimination since 1997 to present?*

*2.     How much has your department agreed to pay to the complainants as part of these agreements?*

*If possible, I would like the information presented with a year-by-year breakdown of the number of agreements issued, for what complaint they were issued, and the amount of money spent on each agreement.*

*E.g.*

*1997:*

*Sexual harassment complaint, NDA agreed, employee paid £18,000.*

*Sexual assult complaint, CDA agreed, employee paid £30,000.*

*1998:*

*Stalking complaint, employee paid £15,000 in special severance payment after signing confidentiality clause.*

*If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under your Section 16 obligations, as to how I can refine my request to be included in the scope of the Act. In any case, if you can identify ways that my request could be refined please provide further advice and assistance to indicate this. I look forward to your response within 20 working days, as stipulated by the Act.*

I can confirm that there have been no non-disclosure agreements (NDAs), confidentiality agreements (CDAs), or special severance payments with confidentiality clauses, or any other “gagging orders” issued by the Office of the Advocate General following a complaint of sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking or sexual discrimination.

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

Derek Wilson

Office of the Advocate General