



November 2017



**REFERENCE: 17FOI 110**

You requested the following information:

**Can the department tell me:**

- **How many lawyers (headcount and/or full-time equivalent) from private sector companies have been contracted, employed or otherwise engaged by the department to draft, research or help to draft legislation (primary and secondary) in preparation for the UK's withdrawal from the EU.**

**If it is not possible to determine the nature of the work for which individuals or companies have been contracted, can the department tell me:**

- **How many lawyers from private sector companies have been contracted, employed or otherwise engaged by the department to draft, research or help to draft legislation (primary and secondary) for any reason since 23 June 2016.**
- **If that information is available, can the department also provide month-by-month time series data (i.e. how many individuals or FTEs were employed by the department on that basis in each month since April 2015).**

**Can the department also provide an estimate or documentation that estimates:**

- **The number of bill-able hours' work that private sector legal firms have provided for the department each month since April 2015). Where possible, can the department please specify if this work relates to the UK's withdrawal from the EU.**
- **The total financial cost to the department of paying private sector lawyers or legal firms to assist with drafting legislation or research, broken down by month, since April 2015. Where possible, can the department please specify if this work relates to the UK's withdrawal from the EU.**

**Finally, can the department please provide an estimate how many additional department-employed lawyers or members of the government legal service would be needed for the department not to require the services of external private sector lawyers or legal firms.**

We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

**The Wales Office has not contracted, employed or otherwise engaged any lawyers from private companies since April 2015. As such no additional department lawyers would be needed to replace the services of external private sector lawyers or legal firms.**