

28 August 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 200804009

Thank you for your request dated 4 August 2020 in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

I write to request information held on the cost of legal aid given to the three teenagers sentenced for the death of PC Andrew Harper. Henry Long, Albert Bowers, 18, and Jessie Cole, 19, were convicted of the manslaughter of PC Harper but cleared of murder, after the police officer was dragged to his death behind their car. I would like to know how much their legal aid cost at the recent trial. If it is possible for it to be broken down between the three that would be appreciated otherwise the total sum would be acceptable.

Your request has been handled under the FOIA, and we have interpreted this as relating to any legal representation provided in connection with the proceedings enquired about.

I can confirm that the MoJ holds the information that you have requested and I have provided it below:

Name	Police Station	Crown Court		Total
	Solicitor	Solicitor	Barrister	
Henry Long	£1,148.02	£119,405.05	£48,621.84	£169,174.91
Albert Bowers	£610.22	£78,803.61	£52,281.84	£131,695.67
Jessie Cole	£962.50	£78,803.61	£85,132.02	£164,898.13

The above costs include VAT and disbursements. Disbursements are expenses incurred which although paid by the LAA directly to the providers, are then paid to other parties involved in the case. Where a trial has only recently concluded, as in this instance, further claims may continue to be made until the billing process has been completed by all of the lawyers involved. The above figures are therefore accurate as at the time of writing, but may be subject to change until all fees have been submitted, considered and paid.

Please note that two of the defendants (Albert Bowers and Jessie Cole) were represented by the same firm, and on that basis the total sum paid to represent both of them has been apportioned on a 50/50 basis; for this reason the fees attributable to those defendants appears as the same figure in the table above.

The Legal Aid Agency (LAA) records data on legal aid granted at the police station, magistrates court or prison on a computer system which does not record all of the personal information needed to allow individuals to be conclusively identified. Initials and surnames are recorded but not full names or dates of birth. Where possible, we look at other related information to confirm that such legal aid claims relate to the individual named in a Freedom of Information request so that we can include the information as appropriate, but if we are not able to verify that a claim relates to the individual named we cannot include it in our response.

These offenders did not receive a penny of legal aid – it went to lawyers to ensure a fair trial.

Our Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Act means judges must also consider tougher sentences for more serious offences – such as manslaughter, GBH or sexual assault – if the victim was an emergency worker.

Anyone facing a Crown Court trial is eligible for legal aid, subject to a strict means test. Depending on their means, applicants for criminal legal aid can be required to pay contributions up to the entire cost of the defence.

Appeal Rights

If you are not satisfied with this response you have the right to request an internal review by responding in writing to one of the addresses below within two months of the date of this response.

data.access@justice.gov.uk

Disclosure Team, Ministry of Justice

You do have the right to ask the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to investigate any aspect of your complaint. However, please note that the ICO is likely to expect internal complaints procedures to have been exhausted before beginning their investigation.

Yours sincerely

**Information Governance
Legal Aid Agency**