

14 August 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 200811003

Thank you for your request received on the 11 August 2020, in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

Could you please tell me how much has been spent on providing legal aid to Shamima Begum, 20, in her efforts to stop the decision whereby her British citizenship has been revoked?

Your request has been handled under the FOIA.

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

Case Type	Matter	Start Date	Solicitors	Barristers	Total
Immigration	Special Immigration Appels Commission (SIAC)	15/04/2019	Nil	£14,581.25	£14,581.25

In civil legal aid cases, an applicant has to satisfy merits and financial means tests. If they do not satisfy these tests then legal aid will not be made available to them. Applicants who meet the relevant means thresholds may still be required to pay a significant contribution towards the costs of their case.

Note the costs provided include VAT and disbursements where applicable. Disbursements are expenses incurred which although paid by the LAA directly to the providers, are then paid to other parties involved in the case.

As at the time of writing, final claims for payment in respect of Shamima Begum have not yet been made to the Legal Aid Agency. It may assist if I explain that bills are submitted for consideration in arrears, i.e. after proceedings have taken place. While partial payments 'on account' may be requested as an interim measure, final costs will not be known until all proceedings have concluded and all bills have been submitted and considered by the LAA.

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, MoJ

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**