



Disclosure Team
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

data.access@justice.gov.uk

21 September 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 200825005

Thank you for your request dated 25 August in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

‘Please state the legal aid paid in respects of Mr Paterson to date’

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.

The total amount of legal aid paid in respect of Ian Paterson in relation to his 2017 trial and subsequent appeal is **£216,542.25**.

Note 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.

The LAA records data on legal aid awarded at the police station or magistrates court on a computer system which does not always allow the LAA to uniquely identify individuals, as it records names but does not record full names, dates of birth or any other means to allow the conclusive identification of specific individuals at this stage of the justice process. Therefore, figures are only provided for these areas of the legal aid scheme when the LAA are able to verify that such claims relate to the individual named in your request

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.

Without proper legal representation a defendant might argue that their trial was unfair and any conviction they received could be quashed. Defendants do not receive a penny of legal aid, payments are means tested and sent directly to solicitors and barristers who represent them to ensure a fair trial. Without legal representation criminals could argue their trial was unfair and convictions could be quashed.

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.

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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**