

28 September 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 200828013

Thank you for your requests dated 28 August in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

1. *‘What was the total cost of the legal aid provided to terrorist plotter Mohiussunnath Chowdhury?’*

Please provide the information in the form of a PDF?’

2. *‘What was the total cost of the legal aid provided to Keeley Bunker’s rapist and murderer Wesley Streete?’*

Please provide the information in the form of a PDF?’

3. *‘How much money was spent providing legal aid to Ceon Braughton for his trial in connection for the death of Louella Fletcher-Mitchie?’*

How much money was spent on providing legal aid to Ceon Braughton for his subsequent Court of Appeal hearing?

What was the total cost of the legal aid provided to Ceon Braughton?’

Please provide the information in the form of a PDF?’

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.

For confirmation the Legal Aid Agency (LAA) has not received or paid any bills in relation to Ceon Broughton’s recent appeal proceedings. The most recent costing information we hold may not necessarily be reflective of the final claim paid to the representatives involved; the billing process for publicly funded representation often takes several months to be finalised in order to allow for claims to be drawn up, submitted, considered, paid, and for any appeals against any assessments to be heard. The below information reflects the position as at the time of your request.

	Solicitor	Barrister	Total	Period
Mohiussunnath Chowdhury	£165,217.82	£118,907.69	£284,125.51	2017 to 2020
Wesley Streete	£8,343.14	£47,379.90	£55,723.04	2019 to 2020
Ceon Broughton	£68,621.13	£66,033.30	£134,654.43	2018 to 2019

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.

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.

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**