

1 September 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 200804006

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

**** Please disclose the total known cost of legal aid for Michael Weir since 1998;***

**** Please provide a breakdown of all known costs, showing amounts claimed for criminal and civil work and the date/s of the case/s, including where these costs related to an appeal/s and parole hearings.***

**** In the case of civil claims, please disclose the type of claim being brought and the name of the authority involved in the action, for example: medical negligence claim against X NHS Trust.***

Please send the information to: jonathan.corke@yahoo.co.uk within the statutory time limit.'

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.

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

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

Crime Legal Aid Costs

Representation at	Case	Solicitor	Barrister	Total	Period
Court of Appeal	Against conviction of murder	£228.42	£6,395.00	£6,623.42	1999 to 2001
Police Station	Drug offences	£263.44		£263.44	2001
Police Station	Burglary	£352.02		£352.02	2004 to 2005
Magistrates court	Burglary	£640.10		£640.10	2004 to 2005
Crown court	Burglary and Lesser offences involving violence or damage, and less serious drug offences.	£1,087.80	£1,012.62	£2,100.42	2004 to 2007
Magistrates court	Robbery	£486.99		£486.99	2008
Police Station	Robbery	£332.58		£332.58	2008
Crown court	Lesser offences involving violence or damage, and less serious drug offences	£1,106.81	£1,232.06	£2,338.87	2008 to 2009
Police Station	Offences against the person	£285.15		£285.15	2012
Crown court	Lesser offences involving violence or damage, and less serious drug offences	£1,373.24	£1,088.18	£2,461.42	2012 to 2013
Police Station	Fraud and forgery and other offences of dishonesty not otherwise categorised	£275.28		£275.28	2013
Magistrates court	Fraud and forgery and other offences of dishonesty not otherwise categorised	£337.87		£337.87	2013
Police Station	Burglary	£310.80		£310.80	2013
Crown court	Burglary, etc	£311.96	£664.27	£976.23	2013 to 2014
Police Station	Other offences	£254.88		£254.88	2016
Police Station	Public order offences	£283.92		£283.92	2016
Magistrates court	Public order offences	£990.36		£990.36	2016 to 2017
Police Station	Drug offences	£276.47		£276.47	2017
Magistrates court	Drug offences	£246.24		£246.24	2017
Police Station	Homicide and related grave offences	£275.32		£275.32	2018
Police Station	Sexual offences and associated offences against children	£263.83		£263.83	2019
Crown court	Homicide and related grave offences	£43,826.00	£64,562.64	£108,388.64	2019
Court of Appeal	Prosecution Application to quash the COA acquittal	£18,082.24	£31,650.00	£49,732.24	2019 to 2020

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 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(s) 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(s) named we cannot include it in our response.

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. Claimants and defendants do not receive a penny of legal aid, it goes straight to solicitors and barristers to ensure a fair trial.

Civil Legal Aid Costs

Case Type	Proceedings	Start Date	End Date	Solicitors	Barristers	Total
Civil Rep – Children’s Act Proceedings	Contact Order	11/08/2000	12/12/2003	£5,502.39	£1,642.35	£7,144.74
Civil Rep – Action Against the Police	False Imprisonment	15/12/2003	04/03/2005	£1,465.23	£1,233.75	£2,698.98
Civil Rep – Housing	Recover possess – tenant	16/08/2012	18/01/2013	£498.66	Nil	£498.66
Civil Rep – Housing	Recover possess – tenant	23/09/2015	24/06/2016	£869.80	Nil	£869.80
Total				£8,336.08	£2,876.10	£11,212.18

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.